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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR 1952 - 53



BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

1953

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 1952

PRESIDENT

MRS. HARRISON G. BRIDGE

VICE PRESIDENT

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH

TREASURER

ALBERT P. BRIGGS, 187 Walnut Street

CLERK

LEA S. LUQUER, 34 Griggs Road

TRUSTEES

Donald K. Packard, Miss Elizabeth Butcher,
J. Francis Driscoll, S. Morton Vose, Gorham Dana and
Officers ex-officio

COMMITTEES

FINANCE—Albert P. Briggs, *Chairman*
Edward Dane,
President, ex-officio.

ROOMS — Mrs. Bertram K. Little, *Chairman*
J. Francis Driscoll, Mrs. George C. Houser,
Reuben Lurie

LIBRARY—Miss Elizabeth Butcher, *Chairman*
Miss Elizabeth Burrage, J. Francis Driscoll,

PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS—
Dr. Harold Bowditch, *Chairman*
Charles B. Blanchard, Samuel Cabot, Francis A.
Caswell, John P. Cotton, J. Francis Driscoll,
James M. Driscoll, Miss Mary Lee.
President and Clerk, ex-officio.

MEMBERSHIP—Gorham Dana, *Chairman*
Charles B. Blanchard, J. Francis Driscoll, Miss
Margaret A. Fish, Mrs. Bertram K. Little, Lea S.
Luquer, Miss Julia Shepley, Daniel Tyler Jr.

DELEGATES TO THE BAY STATE

HISTORICAL LEAGUE

Miss Mary Davis Bush, Miss Margaret A. Fish,
Miss Mary Lee.

ANNUAL MEETING 1952

The fifty-first annual meeting of the Brookline Historical Society was held at the Edward Devotion House on Sunday, January 20, 1952 at 3 P. M. About 40 persons were present.

The president, Mrs. Harrison G. Bridge, called the meeting to order and presided. After welcoming the members she called for the report of the Committee on Rooms which was read by the clerk in the absence of the chairman, Mrs. Bertram K. Little. This report mentioned the recent discovery of an old smoke closet to the left of the kitchen fire place in the Devotion House. The report was duly accepted.

The report of the treasurer was read by the clerk and was duly accepted. This report showed a balance on hand, including securities, of \$3935, which is an increase of \$500 over last year.

The president read her annual report which showed the present membership to be slightly more than last year in spite of six deaths and several migrations.

Mr. Dana for the Membership Committee listed the following applications for membership, and these were all elected by a single ballot:

Mr. Henry R. Atkinson, 30 Heath Street
 Mrs. John E. Boit, 204 Warren Street
 Mr. Kenneth B. Bond, 5 Philbrick Road
 Mr. Frederick C. Bowditch, Jr., 2 Perrin Road
 Mrs. Charles B. Burbank, 43 Sumner Road
 Mrs. Richard Cary Curtis, 205 Warren Street
 Mrs. Arthur E. Grannis, 60 Denny Road, Chestnut Hill
 Mr. Richard W. Hale, Jr., 352 Hammond St., Chestnut Hill
 Mrs. Charles C. Hewitt, Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel Street
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Paine, 325 Heath St., Chestnut Hill
 Mrs. Lewis I. Prouty, 393 Walnut Street
 Dr. and Mrs. Roger I. Lee, 446 Walnut Street
 Mrs. Jeffrey Richardson, 231 Pond Avenue
 Mr. George F. Shepley, 42 Crosby Street, Chestnut Hill

The delegates to the Bay State League gave interesting reports on their visits to meetings. Miss Fish spoke on a meeting in Abington, and Miss Lee on visits to Edgartown and Tufts College.

Mr. Blanchard, chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported the following slate:

Treasurer

ALBERT P. BRIGGS

Secretary

LEA S. LUQUER

Trustees

MISS ELIZABETH BUTCHER

J. FRANCIS DRISCOLL

DONALD K. PACKARD

S. MORTON VOSE

MRS. HARRISON G. BRIDGE

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH

GORHAM DANA

Mr. Dana, after serving for four years, declined re-nomination for clerk, and Mr. Luquer generously accepted the responsibility.

On motion duly seconded, the clerk cast one ballot for the above-named officers. The president and vice president will be elected by the trustees at a later meeting.

The president then introduced Mr. James Driscoll, one of the older members of the Society, who read an extremely interesting paper on Industries in Brookline. The paper brought out many unfamiliar facts about industries long since given up, and was enthusiastically received.

The meeting closed with a social half hour and refreshments.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 20, 1952

Since our last Annual Meeting our membership has increased slightly. We regret that we have lost by death Mr. J. Russell Abbott, Miss Marion E. Crocker, Mrs. Minna B. Hall, Mrs. Luther Merrill, Mrs. Robert Treat Paine and Miss Grace G. White, while several other members have moved away. But in the same period we have elected 17 new members, making our total membership around 240.

The Trustees have held three meetings during the past year. Officers and Standing Committees were elected and it was voted to affiliate ourselves with the Trustees of Public Reservations for the encouragement of preserving historical places, and this membership has been obtained.

Our Spring Meeting was an unusual one and most enjoyable. One of our members, Mr. Paul F. Clark, President of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company, invited the Society to the Hancock Building on May 21, 1951. There, after an inspection of the historic Hancock Room, Mr. Clark gave an illustrated talk on the Hancock Village Development, from its earliest conception to its present busy life. Afterwards he provided delicious refreshments in the tower observation room.

The celebration of our Society's Fiftieth Anniversary was the Trustees' main concern the past Fall. Dr. Harold Bowditch, Chairman of Meetings and Publications, assisted by Miss Elizabeth Butcher and Miss Mary Lee, who was in charge of collecting the material and both of whom gave a great deal of time and thought to its planning and setting-up, arranged for a most comprehensive exhibition of pictures and old Brookline data at the Public Library on December 2, 1951. Mr. Gorham Dana showed and spoke about some of the slides from the Walter Baker collection of old Brookline views, and Mr. Bertram K. Little gave an extremely interesting and valuable paper on the history of our Brookline Society. Mr. Henry Ware, the one of the four original members who was present, greeted the Society and cut the first piece of the Anniversary cake which was decorated with a replica of the Devotion House.

In order to include the record of our Fiftieth Anniversary celebration in the year in which it occurred, our Proceedings have not yet been published, but will be published now to include all of 1951.

The Trustees feel that the plan of having three meetings a year is proving satisfactory, and we are very grateful to members who have volunteered to assist with papers, or who are allowing us to plan our Spring meetings at their homes. This interest and cooperation is a most welcome start for our next fifty years, during which we hope the influence of our Society in recording and preserving old time customs and documents will steadily increase.

RUTH POND BRIDGE,
President

THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cash and Securities on hand January 1, 1952

U. S. Series G 2½% Bond	\$1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	1,208.59	
Brookline Savings Bank	1,726.69	\$3,935.28

Receipts for 1952

Membership Dues	472.00	
Life Memberships	50.00	
Donations	5.75	
Sale — Old Brookline Houses	31.40	
Proceedings50	
History of Brookline	2.00	
Maps	1.50	
Interest on U. S. Bond	25.00	
Interest on Brookline Savings Bank	43.58	631.73
		<u>\$4,567.01</u>

Payments for 1952

Printing	\$ 21.17	
Typing	2.00	
Publishing proceedings	210.46	
Postage	18.73	
Chairs	11.00	
Speaker	35.00	
Insurance	7.50	
Membership Dues	9.00	
Collation	43.51	
Bank Charges	1.70	360.07

Cash and Securities on hand December 31, 1952

U. S. Series G 2½% Bond	\$1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	1,411.67	
Brookline Savings Bank	1,795.27	\$4,206.94
		<u>\$4,567.01</u>

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT P. BRIGGS,
Treasurer

January 9, 1953

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ROOMS — JANUARY 20, 1952

The year 1951 has been an average one for the Devotion House. At different times during the year Mrs. Nelson welcomed and guided about two hundred children from the Edward Devotion School thru the house. A Girl Scout troop came up to visit us from Scituate, and a student from Pembroke College who was writing a paper on New England Colonial Architecture studied the interior. Some Devotion descendants came and took pictures. In addition to visitors from Massachusetts we had people from Hastings-on-Hudson, New York; Duluth, Minnesota; and Los Angeles, California. We took in \$2.75 in donations.

The Annual Meeting of our Society was held here on January 23, 1951, and the Johanna Aspinwall Chapter of the D. A. R. met here on November 13th. The usual ceremony with William Dawes and local representatives took place on April 19th.

The old kitchen has been renovated by painting the ceiling, walls, floor and closets, in addition to cupboards in the present kitchen and the buttery floor. This was done by the Town. During the course of the work an opening to what appears to have been the old smoke closet was discovered in the closet to the left of the kitchen fireplace. This has been left open but is rather hard to see as it is quite high up.

We have received a gift of two old military commissions signed by Caleb Strong and John A. Andrews from Mr. Arthur H. Crosby; a Devotion towel from Miss Priest; and a loan from Mrs. B. K. Little of two early paintings of the William Lawrence house on Cottage Street, and of the Putterham School in 1846.

In closing your chairman would like to stress the idea of holding as many of our meetings as possible here, as the Devotion House, with its fine interior and valuable Brookline collections, is the real heart of our Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

NINA F. LITTLE,

Chairman Committee on Rooms

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
OF THE
BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 20, 1952**

The Nominating Committee has the honor to present the following names for officers and trustees for the ensuing year:

For Treasurer, ALBERT P. BRIGGS

For Clerk, LEA S. LUQUER

For Trustees:

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH

MRS. HARRISON G. BRIDGE

MISS ELIZABETH BUTCHER

J. FRANCIS DRISCOLL

GORHAM DANA

DONALD K. PACKARD

S. MORTON VOSE

For the Committee:

CHARLES B. BLANCHARD

BERTRAM K. LITTLE

MRS. YVES BUHLER

INDUSTRY IN BROOKLINE

By

JAMES DRISCOLL

Delivered January 20, 1952

Industry is generally considered to be the employment of much labor and capital in any branch of trade or manufacture. As such, there has been very little in the town of Brookline. Miss Harriet F. Woods in her *Historical Sketches of Brookline*, published in 1874, opens her chapter on *Local Industry* by saying: "It is customary to record, in the history of a town, some account of its various industrial interests, but Brookline, being but a suburb of Boston, has little to offer in that line." Mr. John Gould Curtis, in his *History of Brookline*, published in 1933, writes in the same vein and starts his chapter on *Industry and the Ways of Trade* with the following sentence: "There is not a great deal to be said about the industrial life of a community devoted primarily to homes." So, in this paper of mine, it would seem that a definition of industry meaning a steady application of labor to business would afford a wider scope in reviewing the various businesses of the town during the early horse and buggy days.

From the *Annals of Music in America* by Henry C. Laheo, published by Marshall Jones Company of Boston in 1922 is an interesting article of 1787: "First pipe organ west of the Alleghanies set up in Cookstown (near Fayette Street) Pennsylvania, was built by Joseph Downer, who was born in Brookline, Massachusetts January 28, 1767 and trekked to Pennsylvania with his family. The organ is preserved at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Curtis, in this same book, writes that there was a grist mill and possibly a "fulling leather mill", whatever that may be, owned by Griffin Crafts in the latter part of the 17th century and located on Muddy River Brook, probably at Willow Pond, which is on Pond Avenue almost opposite the Free Hospital for Women. Whether George Griggs ever built a dam at Muddy River Bridge as he contracted to, is a question. The date of the contract was February 24, 1771, and from the date available, a guess that it was built at Willow Pond seems most reasonable. There was a chocolate mill on this pond, which may have been built after the dam was constructed, but there is nothing recorded other than that it existed. The first chocolate mill in North America was located on the banks of the Neponset River and owned by John Hauan in 1765, who had first hired a room in the grist mill and later took over the entire mill. The manu-

facture of chocolate at Neponset River still goes on, but the mill at Willow Pond was discontinued and a forge set up in the building and the power used to run a trip hammer. Mr. Faxon, who later moved to Roxbury, came into possession of the forge and made hoes and shovels; but, during the war of 1812 he converted his plant to making cannon. There is no mention of a scarcity of civilian goods, but, perhaps John Parker, who had war contracts and became very wealthy, helped his neighbor with orders for war material. Parker Hill was named for him and the hill at the Mission Church was known as Faxon Hill.

Erosamon Drew built the first saw mill in the town on Palmer Brook, off Newton Street in 1693. This enterprise was so successful that in 1715 the town laid out a road leading to it from the Old Sherborn Road now Heath Street. The present Saw Mill Brook, which runs from Hammond's Pond, under Heath Street and Newton Street and on to the Charles River, was named for this mill. This road appears to be the old wood road continuing the present Arlington Road from Heath Street along the edge of the low land. It had been used in recent years as a bridle path.

In 1837 there were three tanneries in the town that tanned 2,500 hides of a value of \$16,000. Brighton was the chief market for livestock in New England and it was a common sight to see herds of cattle, and occasionally of sheep, driven through Brookline Village and up Washington Street to Brighton. Starting down in Rhode Island with a few head, cattle were picked up from the farmers along the road so that the herd was at its maximum through Brookline. It was but a short distance to haul the hides from the Brighton slaughterhouse down Washington Street to a tannery located at the corner of Beacon and Washington Streets, owned by John Robinson and Enos Withington, who bought the land from Robert Sharpe. Enos Withington retired from the business and devoted himself to agriculture. His son was Town Treasurer. The place was known as Robinson's Tannery and the racks were still to be seen before the widening of Beacon Street in 1887. The brook that furnished the water necessary for this tannery still flows in a covered concrete channel across Park Street to School and Harvard Streets, to Brook Street and then into Muddy River.

Brookline was originally a residential suburb of Boston. In the early days it consisted chiefly of detached homes, fine estates, farms, and orchards, with only the usual stores, shops, and offices necessary for daily life. Originally farming was the chief industry. Fruits and vegetables were sold in Boston where

the rights of the Brookline farmers were protected by a clerk of the market, Edward Kirby, appointed in 1662.

In all the histories of the town the names of Crafts, Davis, Stearns, Ward, White, Jones, Coolidge, and Griggs are mentioned as well-known farmers. The farmers I remember personally were Thomas Griggs, who farmed the land on Washington Street running through to Beacon Street; his father, old Deacon Griggs, a very old man, lived in a house right on Washington Street almost opposite Gardner Path. Deacon Timothy Corey cultivated his farm on Washington Street between what is now Salisbury Road and Evans Road, with an orchard on the Beacon Street side of the property. The Corey house is still standing as a modern home. William Griggs had his farm on Harvard Street about opposite the Devotion School. The Coolidge farm on Harvard Street near the Allston line seemed to have ceased being a farm after the Corey Hill toboggan chute was built in from Winchester Street right through the old farm toward Harvard Street. Mr. William Hyde owned a farm on Newton Street across from the Country Club, and it is still under cultivation as the Brandagee Estate. All the other farms have been cut up with house lots and built upon. Mr. Hyde was an active farmer and an active member of the Handel and Haydn Society when he was eighty years old. His daughter taught in the old Putterham School. The locality of the old Ward farm is still referred to as "The Farm", that section between Morss Avenue, the Parkway, and the foot of High Street hill. It was the first to be laid out in house lots in 1860. Mr. Goodenough on South Street was noted for the cider he made, and no other was suitable for mince meat. Mr. Stearns, who lived on Boylston Street near Sumner Road, gave one cider to drink, but refused to sell any. The last time I saw oxen hitched to a cart I learned that they belonged to Eben Reed who lived on Boylston Street at Reservoir Lane. He had horses and cows and a big barn, and sold his land to the town for the present Heath School. On town meeting day, about five o'clock, after the polls had closed, Mr. Reed would be seated outside the polls listening to the nominations from the floor and elections by voice vote of Eben Reed to several minor town offices, one of which was keeper of the pound. The pound was in the rear of St. Lawrence Church on Pound Lane and was thirty feet square, enclosed by a five foot stone wall with a strong gate. Stray animals found on the streets were locked in until the owner came and ransomed them by paying the keeper's charge. I have often looked in the pound as a child expecting to see Pegasus.

The first scales were set up in Harvard Square by William Aspinwall. There was a horizontal beam supported in the mid-

dle and, after the horses were unhitched, the wagon to be weighed was lifted by 56-pound weights on the other end of the balance. Later, before the Civil War, there were two platform scales in the town: one on Boylston Street outside Bacon's grocery store at the corner of Washington Street, and one at Coolidge's store at the corner of Beacon and Harvard Streets. All I ever saw weighed were loads of hay and occasionally, a horse. The onlookers used to bet with each other as to the weight.

In 1874 Brookline was reduced to an inland town when the area between Brighton Avenue and the Charles River was annexed to Boston so that Brighton could be joined to the city. However, Abbott's wharf at Cottage Farm continued to receive schooners loaded with lumber and coal, and the Dearborn lumber wagons carried lumber to various jobs in Brookline. The last string team I recall was on a lumber wagon with the driver seated on a plank extending over the high front wheel. Boards or planks were unloaded from the sloping body by releasing the dog on the roller, and were left in a neat pile. Cousens Brothers unloaded schooners at the wharf and delivered coal to customers throughout the town. Before the advent of dump and raised bodies, the wagons had high sides with loose transverse planks for a bottom for unloading. The construction of the Charles River dam ended navigation.

The opening of the Brookline branch of the Boston and Worcester Railway in 1848 put the stages that ran over the Boston neck to the city out of business. The tracks ended at Brookline Village and there was a turntable and roundhouse where the freight yard is now, on Pearl Street. The New England Railroad, which ran to Woonsocket, had its turntable at Cypress Street. The street crossed the tracks at grade, and the gates were tended by a Mr. Harvey. It was some fun to push the unloaded table around, but when a locomotive was on, it was too heavy for us boys to turn. When the Boston and Albany took over the New England tracks in 1890 as far as Cook Street in Newton Highlands where the circuit started and ran to Riverside, then there was no more need for turntables. The post office was in the Brookline railroad station. In 1886 when the bridge was widened and Station Street built, the station was moved easterly to its present location, and later the post office was moved to Washington Street. After these changes, the homey atmosphere of the place seemed gone.

The first horsecar in Brookline ran from Brookline Village to Boston over Tremont Street in 1859. Two horses pulled the car on iron rails, but they were helped over Faxon Hill by a tow

horse that was hooked onto the car at the bottom of the hill and unhooked at the top. In case the rail was blocked, the car could be jumped off the tracks and dragged around the block. In summer there were open cars with seats across the car, smoking was allowed in the two rear seats, and a curtain on each side could be let down when it rained. The winter car was closed with an upholstered bench along each side. The floor was covered with straw in cold weather, but the drivers stood on the open platform dressed for the cold—some wore buffalo coats. When there was snow it took four horses to pull the car. The car barn was on Walnut Street at Morss Avenue and the horses were stabled in the rear of the barn on Juniper Street. Twice when there was a fire in the adjoining livery stable the horses were turned out and fifty cents a head paid for their return the next morning.

After Huntington Avenue was opened for travel about 1890 a second line of horse cars was opened for Brookline and the rails were extended up Boylston Street and over Cypress Street to Chestnut also, up Washington Street to Park Street. There was also a line on Longwood Avenue to Coolidge Corner, but this was discontinued when the electric cars ran on Beacon Street. The running time was sixteen minutes from Park Street to Massachusetts Avenue, and the same time from there to the Tremont House at the corner of Beacon and Tremont Streets, where there was a spur track at the curb near the Granary Burial Ground where the car was reversed by pulling out a pin from the whiffletree and hitching the horses on the other end. But, even in those days there was traffic congestion, and it would take half an hour to run from Park Street to Copley Square at the busy hour of five o'clock in the afternoon. The subway was built in 1895 to alleviate the traffic jams on Tremont Street.

The first electric trolley car to run in America was on Beacon Street on New Year's Day in 1889. The line was built with overhead trolleys. However, on Boylston Street in Boston, the electric current was taken from an arm that ran in a slot side of the rail, but this was not satisfactory in snow, and was soon abandoned and the overhead trolley permitted in the city. The village horse cars were superceded by trolley cars after the widening of Harvard Street and Boylston Street and tracks laid in them.

Like the automobile of today, everyone who could afford it owned a horse, and horses figured largely in the life of the community, for pleasure and recreation as well as for business. Colonel Russell had a stock farm in West Roxbury where Mount Benedict Cemetery is now, which had a half-mile track around

the summit of the hill, and it was there that Fearnot and Smuggler, famous old trotters, were trained. (Smuggler is still the trade name for a weather vane having a horse on it.) Clyde Park, on the site of the present Country Club, used to have running and trotting races, and Beacon Park, just up the Charles from Brookline was famous for its trotting races. The nearby mile ground, Brighton Avenue, was the course for racing and parading in sleighs. The course started at the Allston line and stopped at the Cottage Farm Bridge. The racers used the middle section; the paraders in single and double sleighs used the sides, with the racers jogging back for another brush. John Shepard was a dominant racer, sometimes changing horses three times in an afternoon to wind up with a fast pair. When the surface of the mile ground gave out, Washington Street from Beacon Street to Cypress, was used. During the last years of sleighing, the wide side of Beacon Street from St. Paul Street to St. Mary's Street was the popular place to see and to be seen. The widespread interest in horses was evidenced by the construction of a bridle path the entire length of Beacon Street, in 1887.

There were several livery stables where one could hire a horse and buggy, or other vehicle, with or without a driver. For formal occasions a pair of horses and a hack with a liveried coachman were available. Quinlan's stable on Washington Street, Clark's on Pearl Street, and O'Day's on Boylston Street maintained hackney service that met the trains with vehicles known as depot carriages. Willie's stable was on Francis Street and the Club Stables were off Carlton Street at Beacon Street. Goodspeed's stable on Washington Street opposite the Town Hall furnished livery service and also had many boarders. Dr. Fred Percy kept his horse there and drove a Stanhope buggy; Dr. Sabine was driven in a Goddard buggy; and Dr. Tappan E. Francis enjoyed driving; he owned four horses, all good ones, and kept them in his own stable.

Hay and grain exclusively were sold by Bond on Boylston Street. Seamans' at Harvard Square and Coolidge Brothers' at Coolidge Corner were grocery stores, but they kept wagons busy hauling hay and grain. It was always interesting to see hay put in the loft; one man would open the hayloft door, reach out and hang a block onto the beam projecting overhead, while the driver unhitched one of the horses from the wagon and tied the whiffletree to the suspended rope reeved through a block, secured near the ground. The other end of the rope carried tongs that gripped the bales of hay. A well-trained horse needed no driver to hoist the load, leaving the men free to fasten and unfasten the tongs.

There were several express companies in the town. Buzzell's Express was quartered in the old Devotion barn until the town took over the property and stabled six of the highway department's horses there. This allowed the snowplows to reach the Longwood section earlier than when they had to come from the Cypress Street barn. Chase's Express was on Washington Street opposite the Fire House before moving to its new building near Walter Avenue. There were two other express companies: Danforth's and Weinstein's, established by foremen formerly employed by Chase. Trowbridge's express was located on School Street near Washington Street and Winchester's express was on Winchester Street. Hayes Brookline and Boston Express is the only of these still operating. All these companies hauled merchandise from Boston, arriving in Brookline in the late afternoon and usually making delivery as soon as it was sorted. Small metal boxes fastened to posts and trees about town were used for written messages and orders for the express. These boxes were usually removed the night before the Fourth as they were a great temptation to the boys with cannon crackers. To serve local builders there were two heavy express wagons, one owned by Jerry Hayes and the other by Patrick McCarthy that had stands near Woodward's shop in the village.

To keep the dust from blowing, streets were watered by sprinklers on watering carts. These carts originally had a 500-gallon upright tank that was filled from a standpipe connected with the water main. The two-horse cart was driven under the pipe and filled from the top. Later, the tanks were larger and horizontal. The sprinklers were controlled by two foot levers and either half could be used. The width covered was about ten feet. Black-top roads banished auto-drivers' dusters and the watering carts at the same time.

In the spring, James Scott with several assistants beat the dust out of carpets with wooden whip handles on the Cypress Street playground. Carpets were tacked onto the floors and the yearly housecleaning, included taking them up and relaying them after the year's dust had been beaten from them. Hardwood floors, vacuum cleaners and carpet cleaning works have banished the beaters.

To take care of all the horses in town there were many blacksmith shops. Beginning near the Gas House at Brookline Avenue was Whittle's, whose sign read, "Farrier"; next was Nagle's in the old brick shop built before the Revolution by Thomas Brewer; continuing up Boylston Street were Duffy's, Burns', Bowen's, and Madores'; Nyhan's shop was on Chestnut Hill Avenue; Carroll's on Hammond Street; and there was one on

Beacon Street near the Club Stables at Carlton Street. At the corner of Washington and High Streets was Royal Woodward's blacksmith and wheelwright shop. Besides the usual anvils, bellows, and wheelwright tools, there was a sling for lifting oxen off their feet, so that the two plates could be nailed on each hoof. There was a large round granite stone used for setting tires on wheels. The wooden wheel was laid on the stone with the hub in the hole in the center of the stone. The blacksmiths carried the red hot tire, which had been welded to size, and put it over the felly. Water was then poured on the hot tire to shrink it onto the wheel.

The horses to be shod, were tied with their heads to the shop wall and the shoer, with his wooden box of nails and tools, picked up the horse's foot, cut off the clinched nails and pulled off the old shoe with special tongs. He then trimmed the hoof with knife and rasp. The fitter took the hot shoe, he had been shaping, by a punch driven into a nail hole and tried it on the hoof. The smell of burning hoof was very distinctive, and to most people not unpleasant. When the fitter, after several tries, was satisfied with the fitting, he cooled the shoe in a tub of water and tossed it to the shoer who nailed it on the hoof, clinching the nails on outer side of the hoof. When the roads were icy, the smooth horses had a hard time getting to the shops to be sharpened. This meant pulling off the shoes and putting on them sharp toe and heel calks about an inch long on heavy shoes. In very bad going there would be a line of horses outside the shops awaiting their turn.

Not a single one of these blacksmith shops is now in existence in Brookline, although there is a shop on Pearl Street run by Robbie Burns, a son of Woodward's foreman. They have vanished as completely as the old shop on Pond Avenue and the famous shop of Abraham Jackson, established in 1772, on Newton Street near South which had bullet holes in the door which were made by Indians.

M. W. Quinlan's carriage factory was on High Street with a blacksmith shop on Walnut Street, and a carpenter and wheelwright shop on Boylston Street adjoining the harness shop. Carriages that were used constantly required varnishing every year and there was usually work to be done on them in all the various shops. Newly varnished carriages were transported on a very low platform rig drawn by two horses. The first snow-storm brought about a scene of feverish activity, getting sleighs out of the shop and nearby storage for instant delivery. Practically all the work was done by hand and the varnish was mixed by Mr. Quinlan himself by a secret formula that required pure

grain alcohol. The factory was famous in greater Boston for the excellence of its work. I know of a Goddard buggy made there, that lasted from the early eighties when it was made until the end of the buggy era, about 1920.

All these preceding paragraphs have dealt with businesses connected with farming and the wide use of horses for both business and pleasure. In addition to these closely related businesses, there were a few other outstanding industries. The Brookline Gas Company was organized in 1851. The gas was made in a brick building on Washington Street at the corner of Brookline Avenue with coal coming by rail to a shed on the site of the present Water Department pipe yard on Pearl Street. The coal was hoisted in buckets from the cars by an engine and was dumped into small cars which were pushed on rails on a trestle over the street to the gas house. The surplus was stored in a shed and kept as a reserve. There were two gas tanks in the yard, later one was built on Washington Street near Fairbanks Street, and still later another on Morss Avenue at Walter Avenue.

In 1853 the town contracted for poles and lamps and gas for not more than twenty lamps at \$25 each. As the mains were extended the original number of twenty lamps increased to the hundreds, and in 1886 there were 272 gas street lamps, 75 oil lamps and 85 electric lights. In 1884, Edward J. Addicks of Delaware, bought several local gas companies, and in 1892 H. H. Rogers of New York came into control of the Brookline Gas Company and started paralleling Boston pipe lines, and a gas war was on. In 1896, the New England Gas and Coke Company started making water gas. James L. Richards bought the Brookline Company from Rogers, and by 1905 had succeeded in consolidating all the gas companies. Thereafter, the Brookline plant was discontinued with a result that the price of gas was lowered and its general use for cooking and heating was increased. The house on Kent Street, now the home of James P. Mackey, was one of the first piped for gas.

Mr. H. W. Burgett started the Brookline Electric Light Company. The dynamos were first installed in a building on Boylston Place and soon were moved to Pearl Street where a loud steam whistle was connected with the fire alarm and for some years rivaled the Brighton bull. In July 1885, the town contracted for sixty arc lights at fifty cents per night and the company installed 72 lights at the price for 60. Those lights displaced 212 gas lights. In May 1886, the Suburban Light and Power Company made the contract with the town and in 1888, the contract for electric lighting was made with the Brookline

Gas Light Company which evidently had taken over the electric business. The early electric lights used carbons, the light was given off by the arc between carbons which required daily renewal and they were reached by climbing the poles. The Gas Company moved the dynamos to their new plant in Allston where the gas was made.

Another interesting business carried on in Brookline was a fishing tackle plant owned by John W. Shields, located on Cypress Street just southwest of the railroad bridge, and staffed almost entirely by girl operators. Mr. Shields developed a patented process for waterproofing fishing lines. He sold the right to use his process to New York concerns. His business was carried on by his son for some years and was ultimately discontinued.

Mr. John W. Koch, who, when he was eighty years of age would often take a walk to Dedham of a summer evening, had a shop on Washington Street about opposite Holden Street known as the American Screen Company where he made window screens with slender wooden frames reinforced with metal, that slid in tracks nailed to the window frames. This business was carried on by his family until very recently.

Charles W. Holtzer came to this country from Germany in 1866 and after some years of employment with E. S. Ritchie & Sons, started manufacturing electrical devices with Mr. Newell in the basement of the Harvard Building at Harvard Square. In 1874, after four or five years, Mr. Holtzer moved to a factory erected on Boylston Street. He purchased the Catholic Church on Amden Place and Station Street in 1885 and moved his factory to the remodeled church. The pews were ripped out by teen-aged boys who invested the pennies found, in the purchasing of Washington pies which then cost twelve cents apiece. In 1911 the factory was destroyed by a spectacular fire, and the next morning burnt shingles were found as far away as Jamaica Pond. Several brick buildings had been built on adjoining land, and they with the rebuilt wooden factory are now in use by various business concerns. The electric business consisted of the manufacture of bells, alarms, annunciators, telephones and many other devices in a department called, "Sundries Dep't." In another department, small motors were made.

An electric automobile was made for Fisk Warren in 1891, and it was operated by motors and storage batteries. One pleasant morning, I saw the electric carriage resting, with the wheels in a vertical plane, on the northerly side of Fisher Avenue. Two years later a second car was built seating eight people, weighing 5100 pounds and capable of traveling sixteen miles per

hour on a level road. The body of this car was built by Mr. Quinlan. These were the first electric carriages ever built.

The Seth W. Fuller and Holtzer partnership operated but for a few years. George E. Cabot joined the firm and upon the withdrawal of Fuller it became the Holtzer & Cabot firm. In 1889 the business was incorporated and a few years later in 1892 Mr. Cabot retired. The business increased as the years went by and now it builds intercommunication systems used on Naval vessels and airplanes. Holtzer-Cabot is now located on Amory Street in Roxbury, having abandoned the Brookline site in 1915.

E. S. Ritchie and Sons, Inc., have a factory today on Cypress Street where the business of making philosophical instruments has been carried on for many years. It was established in 1850 and though the instruments were made in Brookline, the catalogue was issued from 243 Washington Street, Boston. The interest in Physics was fostered by courses in high schools and colleges, and the Ritchie instruments were of great assistance in developing the study of this subject; letters from teachers and physicists and the Bureau of Standards show the confidence and trust they placed in Mr. Ritchie. Laboratories are essential to the proper study of science and proper instruments are a necessity to laboratories. Mr. Ritchie in his long life, from 1814 to 1895, was an outstanding figure in the field of physics and applied science.

On September 9th, 1862 he took out his first patent on a nautical compass and another in April 1863. *The Monitor*, in its famous battle with the *Merrimac* used a Ritchie Compass on March 9, 1862. The English Navy was also a user as well as the U. S. Navy; the company has many testimonials from Navy Officers, for the efficiency of the compass. The Ritchie compass is hand made and did not lend itself to mass production, hence, during the war, Navy specifications were changed so that compasses might be made with machines.

Not long since a compass #2818 was found in a French sailing ship that was wrecked in 1871 on Long Island. The company records showed that this instrument was sold to Riggs & Brother, of Philadelphia, a concern still doing business with the company. A deep-sea diver found a compass at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of southern California that was in usable condition; it was sold in 1927. There is on exhibition at the company's office an interesting compass made in 1868.

The first round radio antenna was invented at Ritchie's as was the Cabot receiver developed here. When Mr. Ritchie was seventy years old he invented a meter for recording the velocity

of currents in water. The international reputation of the Ritchie instruments is well established and has been for years.

Only last year, a letter from Pakistan was delivered, although it was addressed only to "RITCHIE BOSTON". In the letter the correspondent asked for parts of an electric recorder that was very old; in fact, it was so old that none of the present employees remembered ever having heard of it! Here is a company, famous the world over, that has been operating in our midst for a century, of which, few of our people in Brookline are aware of its existence.

Although not strictly a local industry, the cutting and distribution of ice was always an interesting sight. The ice used in Brookline came originally from Jamaica Pond just over the town line in Jamaica Plain. In 1890 this pond was taken into the Boston Park system and Hammond's Pond at the Newton line just off the Worcester Turnpike was used until the reconstruction of the pike in 1935. The ice was stored in ice houses adjacent to the ponds: one on Prince Street, Jamaica Plain, and the other on the southerly shore of Hammond's Pond. Sometimes a mild winter necessitated bringing ice from New Hampshire by rail to the freight yard on Pearl Street.

Cutting began when the ice was ten inches thick, and the pond became a scene of great industrial activity when the horses and men moved onto the ice. First the snow was cleared off with horse-drawn scoops; then a horse-drawn marking sled equipped with a vertical knife went over the area to be cut, marking it off in four foot squares so that it looked like a big checker board. A channel was then sawed out by hand from the marked area to the ice house, and the ice was sawed along the parallel markings to free the floes so that they could be pushed along the channel by men called grabbers who used long poles with sharp ends to pull the ice cakes. Then the floes were chiseled on the cross markings to separate the ice into cakes about four feet square. At the shore near the ice house the cakes were floated onto a mechanical hoist with an endless belt of iron links and wooden cleats and carried up into the ice house where they were pulled from the hoist and shaved to uniform thickness, and finally shoved down a slide to be stacked and insulated with hay for storage.

The old ice carts with their arched canvas covers, their scales and tongs, and their dripping baskets for shaving ice for special uses, were a familiar sight delivering ice to all the stores and homes throughout the town.

This industry provided work for men and horses usually unemployed through the winter months. Of course it interrupted

the hockey games and figure skating, but the cut-over areas usually froze over again quickly and new black ice delighted the skaters and hockey players. However, on Sundays all hockey games were moved over to Hammond's Pond, for Sunday playing was never allowed on Jamaica Pond.

No paper on *Historical Brookline* would be complete without a mention of the Punch Bowl Tavern, which site was recently marked by our Society in recognition of the important part it played in the early history of the town. Although it was, in its day, a thriving industry, I have failed to mention it as such. Rather, let us roll back the years for two hundred or so, and imagine ourselves leaving here, in our sleighs, and driving down to the Tavern for what Miss Woods liked to call, a "gay party," and where, history tells, we will find a clearing house of intelligence, news and opinions of the people.

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held at the residence of Mrs. Richard Carey Curtis at Green Hill, 205 Warren Street, Brookline, on May 18.

Mrs. Curtis read two papers; the first, a resume of an article entitled *The Goddard House*, by Miss Julia Goddard, and read at a meeting of the Society held in April, 1902. This entire paper was incorporated in the Proceedings for 1903; the second, a number of reminiscences about Green Hill, prepared by Mrs. George Shepley, carried the story on down to the present.

It is disappointing that Miss Goddard in her account makes only two slight references to her life in this house during her eighty-odd years, but Mrs. Shepley a lifelong neighbor has jotted down the following reminiscences:

"When my parents moved to Cottage Street in 1873 I was only just six years old and have no clear recollection of Miss Goddard until much later, although the two households were very neighborly. By the time I was grown up she seemed to me to be already a little old lady in clothes of an antiquated fashion, — bonnets, flowing skirts, and little jackets with basques — no sign of the fashionable bustle of the period. She never changed this style of costume, and by the time my two daughters were grown they were much amused one day when at Miss Goddard's to have her proudly show them a new crimson velvet jacket, bead-trimmed and of outlandish cut, urging them to use the same dressmaker for their next party dresses! She was very fond of young people and welcomed them to the house, and my children have never forgotten the wonderful big box of chocolates from Miss Goddard every Christmas. One of my sons reminds me that each Christmas Eve towards the end of her life when she had become more or less of an invalid, he and I carried over a small decorated Christmas tree which we lighted in her front hall before carrying it upstairs to her in her bedroom. This seemed to give her great pleasure and to be an annual surprise.

I never remember seeing Miss Goddard go out driving, although our Warren Street house was directly across the road from her stable with several horses, cows, and a pigeon-loft above. The French-Canadian coachman, Everice Ouimet, was an outstanding character, and his wife was the housekeeper. He was very friendly to all the neighboring children and seemed to enjoy having them underfoot watching him milk the cows, or climbing after him into the pigeon-loft. In fact he and his brother Arthur Ouimet the coachman of old Captain Welch down the street (and father of the golf champion) did quite a trade in pigeons over the years, with young Richardsons Littles, Shepleys and other neighbors.

Miss Goddard spent most of her time on her own grounds and I often took her favorite stroll with her along the lilac walk in the direction of the stable, to a bench under the great elm (which has only this year gone) where she liked to sit and enjoy the view over the rolling field across the way where Mr. John Boit's house now stands, — her 'Millet field' she called it when the sowing or harvesting was going on. Latterly, however, one was sure to find her ensconced in her small downstairs sitting-room looking towards the west, with its apple trees under which in blossom-time grew a sea of blue forget-me-not. Miss Goddard realizing how much I admired this, gave me great clumps of it, which are still thriving under the magnolia on my lawn. The little sitting-room had at one period unfortunately been paneled in golden oak, and Miss Goddard's own very old-fashioned appearance made a most incongruous contrast to this background. In the hall outside this room a straight steep stairway—of the same oak—led to her bedroom immediately above.

My mother and Miss Goddard when they grew too elderly for calling on one another were fond of using me as their go-between in exchanging bits of news, daily menus, and their favorite books. My mother would sometimes ask me to find out what Miss Goddard was planning to have for supper that night, and then Mamma would order the same! They both enjoyed the novels of Trolloppe, Charles Reade and Mrs. Alexander, re-reading them all from time to time, — "like meeting old friends" Miss Goddard would say.

Towards the end she became very concerned as to what would become of Green Hill; she often spoke to me about it, and she inserted a provision in her will that it could not be sold without the consent of her sister-in-law Mrs. Maurice Goddard who had been living with her for several years and who would not have been able to afford to keep up the place alone. Just after Miss Goddard's death, her sister-in-law moved to a nearby suburb, and as soon as Green Hill came onto the market Mrs. Goddard was at once besieged by one or two real-estate speculators who wanted to divide the land into several lots. She appealed to me, knowing how interested I would be to keep the place intact. We finally decided that I should write letters to three or four possible purchasers; meanwhile Mr. George Peabody Gardner who owned the adjoining property came to my help by generously putting down a sufficient sum to hold the place during these transactions. The first two letters were unsuccessful, but from Mr. Walter Baylies I had a response at once; he wrote that he always loved the old house and its setting and would like to purchase it for his daughter Mrs. Randall Clifford.

Mr. Baylies became very interested in restoring the original features of the house and gave the architect carte blanche in the necessary structural changes. The oak staircase was removed and replaced by an unobtrusive one at the end of the hall, leaving the old original enclosed stair with its batten door, near by. The great kitchen fireplace was discovered with the crane still in place, behind three successive shallow ones bricked-in one over the other. The old French wallpaper in the large front living-room, which was badly damaged and worn was re-painted by hand. An interesting item concerned the front doorway which was no longer the original one:—when the old Punch Bowl Tavern in Brookline Village, which Mr. Nehemiah Davis had at one time owned, was torn down many years ago, its front door and portico had been saved and incorporated into a nearby house on Washington Street; this by the year 1920 was in a state of great dilapidation, its ancient door replaced by a modern one although the distinguished old portico surrounding it was still intact. The house owner was persuaded to have a new portico substituted for the old one which, with a replica of the Punch Bowl Tavern door, was installed at Green Hill.

Dr. and Mrs. Clifford enjoyed the lovely house and place for twenty years or more, before moving to Maryland. The house is now owned by Mrs. Richard Cary Curtis."

A History of the first 100 years of St. Mary's of the Assumption prepared and read by Mr. John H. Drum on the occasion of the Society's Fall Meeting held at the Brookline Library on Monday evening of October 27.

The parish of St. Mary's of the Assumption had its formal beginnings in June, 1852, when a congregation gathered at the Brookline Lyceum to attend the first public Mass. The parish had been created under the direction of John B. Fitzpatrick, the third Bishop of Boston, who named the Reverend Michael O'Beirne as first pastor. The Lyceum, located on the Boston-Worcester road, had formerly served as an inn under a name which was not particularly suggestive of the spiritual activities to come, that is, The Punch Bowl Tavern.

At the time the Catholics organized their first church, Brookline was a community of less than 2,000 souls. There were then in existence four churches of other faiths serving the Town, the ancient First Parish, the Orthodox Congregational Church on Harvard Street, the Baptist Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

We may assume from the foregoing that although the population generally was mildly divided by different shades of Protestant belief, nevertheless its complexion was fairly monolithic, being mostly composed of people whose ancestors had lived in or near the village on the Muddy River for decades.

The new Catholic congregation were of a different stock. They were for the most part recently arrived from Ireland. There had long been people of Irish blood in Massachusetts Bay, as a substantial flow of Irish immigrants had continued from earliest colonial times, but they had been quickly assimilated into the general population, adopting its beliefs and point of view, so that little was left to identify them but their names and a vague memory of their traditions. As early as 1737 twenty-six gentlemen, natives of Ireland or of Irish extraction, had assembled in Boston on St. Patrick's Day to organize the Charitable Irish Society with the professed purpose of preserving their Irish nationality. Among those who fought the British at Bunker Hill were many with unmistakeably Irish names.

Among the more famous persons of this sort were the family of Sullivans, which included governors, legislators, etc. A branch of this family apparently lived in Brookline in the last half of the 18th century, as it appears that in 1795 the Town purchased land from a Richard Sullivan, Esq., for the benefit of the First Parish.

But the people who formed St. Mary's were mostly of immigrant stock. Over a million and a half people had come to this country from Ireland in the three decades between 1820 and 1850 and the dreadful potato famine of 1845 accelerated this flow. Of course, a substantial portion of these immigrants landed in Boston, many settling in the city. At first they populated South Boston. Without money or education they could support themselves only at manual labor, and gradually, as some of them bettered their lot, they moved from the overcrowded and squalid conditions of their first homes out into the Village area of Brookline.

Looking back at that period over the distance of 100 years, we may wonder what the feeling of Brookline's native inhabitants was when these people were of sufficient number to organize a Catholic church in their town. I have not found any contemporary comments bearing on this subject. However, it occurred to me that it might interest my listeners to review some of the actions and reactions of earlier citizens of the mother metropolis of Boston upon the arrival or threat of arrival of Catholics in their midst.

The first Catholic resident in Boston who achieved any notoriety was Ann Glover, known as Goody Glover, whom Cotton Mather referred to as "a scandalous old Irish woman, very poor, a Roman Catholic, and obstinate in idolatry". Largely through his efforts she was later tried and hung as a witch in the mania of 1688. Exiled Acadians were denied the service of a priest by Governor Hutchinson in 1772 because, in his view, "the people would upon no terms have consented to the public exercise of religious worship by Roman Catholic priests."

Happily, under the benign influence of the Revolution and the acceptance of the Federal Constitution by which our now traditional liberties were promulgated, a new concept of religious tolerance pervaded the atmosphere of Boston. In 1799 under Jean-Louis de Cheverus, soon to become the first Bishop of Boston, a new Catholic church was built in that town. From its own congregation was collected \$16,000 but more surprising, almost the entire balance of its cost, that is, the sum of \$11,000, was contributed by leading Protestant families, headed by the President of the United States, John Adams. The plans for the building were supplied without charge by the famous architect, Charles Bulfinch.

The labors of Cheverus as priest and bishop covered a period of twenty-seven years, ending in 1823. His parish embraced almost all New England and he was known to travel on foot as far as Hingham to minister to a member of his flock. Such a

vigorous demonstration of missionary zeal in the middle of the 20th century, when walking is a forgotten form of locomotion, would doubtless astonish clergymen of every faith and sect. At all events, Cheverus' devotion to his duties did not pass unnoticed among his contemporaries. Dr. Channing, the eminent Unitarian minister of that time, said of him, "Who among our religious teachers would solicit a comparison between himself and the devoted Cheverus? How can we shut our hearts against this proof of the Catholic religion to form good and great men? It is time that greater justice were done to this ancient and widespread community."

From all this it must be inferred that virtue is not only its own reward but, if it shines brightly enough, its light will be readily observed. The manner in which Cheverus was received in Boston illustrates magnificently the intellectual impact that one man of good will may have upon other men of like mind.

Returning again to St. Mary's, its congregation continued to assemble at the Lyceum for over a year. A building of its own was acquired on Andem Place where the first service was held on Christmas Day, 1853, and in the next year Father O'Beirne was succeeded by the Reverend John M. Finotti, who served as pastor until 1872. During the first years of St. Mary's existence, we must observe that the pendulum of tolerance had swung again in the wrong direction. The Eighteen-Fifties were the period of the Know-Nothings. In July of 1854 the churches at Dorchester, at Bath and Manchester, N. H., were destroyed by mobs. A special committee, appointed by the General court of Massachusetts, forced their way into several convents to investigate them. In March, 1859, a Catholic boy was whipped for refusing to read the Protestant Bible and recite Protestant Prayers in a Boston Public School.

If any discrimination whatever did exist in our schools, we can be sure it did not persist for long. The records disclose that by 1890 there were two Catholics on the School Committee and one of these was the Reverend L. J. Morris, the fourth pastor of St. Mary's (Father Finotti had been followed by Father P. J. Lamb who served for only about one year. Father Morris succeeded Lamb in 1873 and guided the congregation for twenty-seven years, until 1900.) The other Catholic member of the School Committee at that time was Michael Driscoll for whom one of our schools is named. With such representation as this, it can be assumed that the administration of the public schools was in all respects satisfactory to the Catholic population. This was before the time when St. Mary's organized its own schools. A school fund had been accumulated for many years toward the

day when the parish could send its children to a school of its own and ultimately this goal was realized under the pastorate of Monsignor Michael T. McManus with the opening of the primary school in 1907. The parish high school came a few years later.

In the hundred years since its first congregation met at the Lyceum, St. Mary's Parish has moved twice, first to Andem Place, already referred to, and second to its present church building on Harvard Street which was begun in 1880 and dedicated six years later. The Parish has seen its members grow from a few hundred to more than 8,000 and in the process has had several new parishes carved out of its original territorial limits.

I would like to conclude by saying that in giving consideration to these centennial anniversaries, which always carry one back to a time beyond any living memory and into the realm of speculation, at least to some degree, there is a natural temptation to face about in the opposite direction and strain to see what shape the future will take in 2052.

For my part, I cannot divine the future even to November 4 of the current year, but if I could see 100 years ahead I would hope to perceive that the people of St. Mary's and their neighbors, and the counterparts of both all over the country, will have grown so accustomed to one another that they can emulate the peoples of Switzerland who take for granted their natural differences of race, creed and even of language, knowing that it is their common devotion to democratic ideals and practices which has enabled them to live together in freedom and peace for half a millenium.

—JOHN F. DRUM

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 27, 1952

A paper prepared and read by Mr. John Page Cotton on October 27, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Consecration of St. Paul's Church, Brookline.

I was much interested to hear of the centennial celebration of St. Mary of the Assumption. I was interested particularly as the church I attend, St. Paul's Church in Brookline, has only just completed a similar centennial celebration. I am sorry that our parish historian, Dr. Robert Bigelow, could not give us tonight a full story of the progress which has been made by our church during the last hundred years. All I shall try to do even if the facts may be known already to many of you is to give a brief description of the situation at the time of the founding of the church. For the details I am indebted to the conscientious work of Dr. Bigelow.

At the time of the founding Brookline was largely populated by proper Bostonian families who had moved their homes out to Brookline. It might be called a town of the Aristocracy. Fortunately this is not true today. It has become, what shall I say, more homologous. I use this term for I cannot bring myself to say at this time particularly that it had gone Democratic.

As the story goes there were two prominent men in the town who were very much interested to create an Episcopal Church. The nearest Episcopal Church then was St. James in Roxbury founded in 1832. In those horse and buggy days that meant quite a journey from Brookline every Sunday. At that time there were three Protestant Churches in Brookline. The three were: The First Parish Church, founded, I believe, in 1717, a Baptist Church at the corner of Washington and Harvard Sts. and the Harvard Church then at the corner of Washington and School.

On March 8, 1848 matters came to a head and the two socialites above referred to, Augustus Aspinwall and Harrison Fay, hitched up the old grey mare and started off for the big city. They may have taken the old route crossing Muddy Brook then through Roxbury and across the Neck or else along Western Avenue called the Mill Dam, now Beacon Street. History does not say. They could not go by train as the Brookline railroad branch was not completed till later that year. In due time they arrived at the law office of William Aspinwall, an uncle of Augustus, at 9 State Street. Then and there the final decision

was made. Augustus generously donated to the cause the necessary land and Harrison Fay went into line by subscribing \$2,000, quite a sum in those days. Uncle William offered to raise further subscriptions for the needed balance. Fortunately his efforts met with success and many of the leaders in the town helped with their loyal support.

On October 3, 1849 an organization meeting was held in the Town Hall. Richard Upjohn, a well-known architect, who had just completed the building of Trinity Church in New York was appointed as the church's architect. Augustus Aspinwall and Harrison Fay deservedly were elected Wardens and William Horton of Newburyport was chosen to be the first Rector. St. Paul's Church in Brookline was adopted as the corporate name for the new church.

On July 29, 1851 the cornerstone was laid. While the church was building services were held in the Town Hall. The completed church was consecrated by Bishop Eastman December 23, 1852. Thus ends the story of the founding of St. Paul's Church in Brookline. If anyone is interested further in the history of the church I respectfully refer him to Dr. Bigelow.

I feel the story of the progress made in the last hundred years by both St. Mary's and St. Paul's is encouraging but I think now when the teaching of spiritual values is of such vital importance not only to our community but to the entire world we should look forward and not use up too much of our time in archaic reflections. I call to mind something I read recently written by good old Dr. DeNormandie in reference to the First Church in Roxbury which was founded not in 1848 but in 1632. I quote: "This church has held a noble past but the real value of a church is not in the past but on its ability to minister to the religious needs of today." That is something that is worthwhile for all of us to keep in mind.

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 *Mr. Nathaniel L. Amster
 Miss Lucy Aspinwall
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Atkinson
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 Mrs. Marion J. Baker
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 Mrs. Herbert S. Johnson
 Mr. Franklin King
 Rev. Frederick C. Lawrence
 Mrs. James Lawrence, Jr.
 Mr. Frederick A. Leavitt
 Miss Mary Lee
 Dr. and Mrs. Roger I. Lee
 Mrs. Geoffrey W. Lewis
 Mr. and Mrs. Bertram K. Little
 Mr. Leon M. Little
 Mrs. Percival H. Lombard
 Mr. Lindsley Loring
 Mrs. Guy Lowell
 Mr. James A. Lowell
 Mr. and Mrs. Lea S. Luquer
 Mr. Reuben Lurie
 Mr. Theodore Lyman
 Mr. Scott McNeilly
 Mr. James P. Mackey
 Mrs. Gordon B. March
 Mr. Charles N. Mason, Jr.
 Mrs. George K. Minot
 Mrs. W. M. Parker Mitchell
 Mrs. Samuel Mixer
 Mr. Gay E. Morgan
 Miss Lucy A. Morse
 Mrs. Edward F. Mallowney
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederick Nelson
 Mr. Henry H. Newell
 Mr. Charles A. Newhall
 Mr. Francis J. Oakes
 Mrs. George L. Osborn
 Miss Maud Oxenham
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Packard
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Paine
 Mr. William D. Paine
 Mr. George S. Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Peabody
 Mrs. Florence P. Peabody
 ‡Mr. Arthur Perry
 Mr. John C. Poland
 Mrs. Roger Preston
 *Miss Alice L. Priest
 Mrs. Lewis I. Prouty
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Phillips Purdy
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon W. Rand
 Mrs. Paul R. Reed
 Mr. William T. Reid, Jr.
 Miss Mabel Sutton Rice
 Mr. Edward B. Richardson
 *Mr. Frederick L. Richardson
 Mrs. Henry H. Richardson
 Mrs. Jeffrey Richardson
 Mr. Hibbard Richter
 Miss Helena M. Rick
 Mrs. Oliver H. P. Rodman
 Mrs. Ernest L. Rueter
 Miss Alice Seaver
 Dr. George C. Shattuck
 Miss Emily B. Shepard
 Mr. George F. Shepley
 Mrs. George F. Shepley, Sr.
 Miss Julia H. Shepley
 Mr. Arthur J. Shinnors
 Mrs. Anna P. Smith
 Mr. William B. Snow, Jr.
 Dr. David F. Spinney
 Mrs. William R. C. Stephenson
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Storey
 Mrs. Richard H. Sweet
 Mrs. William H. Sweet
 *Dr. Fritz B. Talbot
 Mr. George O. Tapley
 Dr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Taylor
 Miss Margaret Taylor
 Dr. James R. Torbet
 Miss Annie R. Townsend
 Miss Joyce Tyler
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 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ware
 Mr. William M. Warren
 Mrs. Gardner Washburn
 Mrs. Frank S. Waterman
 Mrs. Forsyth Watson
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 Mr. Stephen Wheatland
 Mrs. Franklin W. White
 Mr. Donald H. Whittemore
 Mr. Arthur M. Wiggin
 Miss Josephine H. Wilder
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 Mr. Harold Williams
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 Judge Francis S. Wyner
 Mr. William H. Young

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* Life Members

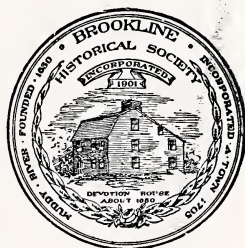
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR 1953



BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

1953



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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 1953

PRESIDENT

MRS. HARRISON G. BRIDGE

VICE PRESIDENT

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH

TREASURER

ALBERT P. BRIGGS, 187 Walnut Street

CLERK

LEA S. LUQUER, 34 Griggs Road

TRUSTEES

Donald K. Packard, Miss Elizabeth Butcher,
J. Francis Driscoll, S. Morton Vose, Gorham Dana and
Officers ex-officio

COMMITTEES

FINANCE—Albert P. Briggs, *Chairman*
Edward Dane,
President, ex-officio.

ROOMS — Mrs. Bertram K. Little, *Chairman*
Mrs. George C. Houser, Reuben Lurie

LIBRARY—Miss Elizabeth Butcher, *Chairman*
Miss Elizabeth Burrage, J. Francis Driscoll.

PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS—

Dr. Harold Bowditch, *Chairman*
Charles B. Blanchard, Samuel Cabot,
Francis A. Caswell, John P. Cotton,
James M. Driscoll, Miss Mary Lee.
President and *Clerk*, ex-officio.

MEMBERSHIP—Charles B. Blanchard, *Chairman*
Miss Margaret A. Fish, Mrs. Bertram K. Little,
Lea S. Luquer, Miss Julia Shepley,
Daniel Tyler, Jr., Mrs. Yves Buhler.

DELEGATES TO THE BAY STATE

HISTORICAL LEAGUE—

Miss Margaret A. Fish, Miss Mary Lee,
Mrs. George C. Houser

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING 1953

The fifty-second Annual Meeting, attended by some forty-five members, was called to order on January 18, 1953 at 3:05 o'clock by President Bridge who began by making a few appropriate remarks welcoming members and their friends and thanking Mr. and Mrs. Nelson for their ever-ready hospitality.

The President's Report for the past year was read and accepted.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Clerk read Mr. Briggs' Report for him which was accepted and placed on file. Again it was an excellent sign to note that the balance as given amounted to more than three hundred fifty dollars over and beyond the balance given as of a year earlier.

Mrs. Bertram K. Little, Chairman of the Committee on Rooms next read her Report covering the activities of that group which was accepted. She was followed by Miss Margaret Fish, one of the Society's Delegates to the Bay State Historical League who reported briefly on having represented the Society at the Meeting held at Salem last October. Miss Fish was followed by another of the Delegates, Miss Mary Lee, who reported on having attended the Spring Meeting of the Bay State League held at Northampton in May. Miss Lee spoke for a moment or so upon the several old houses visited at the time of the meeting, among them the old Porter Phelps Huntington House at Hadley built in 1699, altered in 1786, and virtually unchanged since that time. She mentioned hearing read excerpts from some of Jonathan Edwards' sermons that in former days used to make women faint and strong men quake with fear.

Mr. Bertram K. Little, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, next presented the following slate: for Clerk: Lea S. Luquer; for Treasurer: Albert P. Briggs; for Trustees: Dr. Harold Bowditch, Mrs. Harrison Bridge, Miss Elizabeth Butcher, Mr. Gorham Dana, Mr. J. Francis Driscoll, Mr. Donald K. Packard, Mr. S. Morton Vose.

This Report was accepted and the Clerk instructed to cast one ballot for the election of the above.

The following were then elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. Theodore Badger, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Driscoll, Mr. John F. Drum, Miss Anne L. and Miss Margaret C. Estabrook, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Gardiner, Mrs. Thomas Goethals, Mrs. Therese Putnam, Mrs. Richard Wallace, Mrs. Mason Whiting, and Mrs. John L. Newell.

Miss Lee presented the Society with a number of old photographs given by Louisa H. Putnam and a resolution of thanks passed in recognition of the same.

There being no further business, the business meeting was declared adjourned and those present listened to a short paper read and prepared by Mr. Gorham Dana on the life of John D. Runkle with reference to the many contributions to the welfare and life of the Town made by this outstanding man, teacher, and Second President of M. I. T. Mr. Dana was followed by Miss Lilla N. Morse who read a vivid and most carefully worked out paper on the changes in the Coolidge Corner District since the widening of Beacon Street in 1887. Upon the ending to the reading, President Bridge thanked Mr. Dana for his contribution and Miss Morse most especially for the time and effort spent in working up her valuable paper and the Meeting was adjourned.

A pleasant and agreeable social hour followed at which time new members had an opportunity to look over the old Devotion House.

Respectfully submitted,

LEA S. LUQUER,
Clerk

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 18, 1953

During the past year the membership in our Society has continued to grow. It is always with deep regret that we report our losses by death, — that of Mrs. Daniel D. Addison, Mr. Selden R. Allen, Miss Emily Denny, Mr. Charles B. Duncklee, and Dean Arthur B. Lamb, — and six other members have found it necessary to resign. But I am happy to say that during the year we have added for the second time seventeen new members, and Mr. Gorham Dana and Mr. Walter B. Humphreys have become Life Members.

The Trustees have held the customary three meetings since last January, to transact the general business of electing officers, reforming Standing Committees, and planning for future papers and meeting places. It was voted to loan the portrait of the Rev. Ebenezer Devotion from this house to Weslyn University for an exhibition at the Davidson Art Center which was held in December. At the November meeting, The Trustees accepted with thanks the gift of a hand-written booklet, dated 1884, on the genealogy of part of the Corey family. It was presented by Mr. Preston E. Corey, of Reading, Mass., and is now with the Society's other possessions in the Public Library. And I should like to mention again the gift to this House by Dr. Frederick L. Taylor of a spinning wheel, 2 niddy-noddies, and a small mirror. We are always glad of the opportunity to preserve worth-while historical objects.

Our Spring meeting, at the home of Mrs. Richard Cary Curtis not only gave a chance to hear parts of a paper originally presented by Miss Julia Goddard at a meeting of this Society in April, 1902, on the history of "Green Hill", — but afforded an opportunity afterwards to inspect the very house about which it was written. To bring this history up-to-date, Mrs. George F. Shepley, Sr., wrote a paper on her reminiscences of the last 50 years of "Green Hill", and this will be printed in our Proceedings for 1952. This meeting closed with a delightful Tea provided by Mrs. Curtis, and her kindness was greatly appreciated.

For the Fall Meeting at the Public Library in October, we had a full and interesting agenda. Mr. John F. Drum read his paper on the history of St. Mary's of the Assumption, which was celebrating its 100th Anniversary. (As this was also the 100th Anniversary of St. Paul's, Mr. John P. Cotton made some brief remarks about this Brookline Church.) There was in addition an exhibition of pictures and other material connected with both churches. Mr. Roland Robbins then gave a lecture on the

Restoration of America's First Iron Works at Saugus, Mass. which was illustrated with very attractive slides.

The Trustees are always open to suggestions for ways to make this Society continually interesting to its members, and wish to thank all those who have helped so generously in the past.

RUTH POND BRIDGE, *President*

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cash and Securities on hand January 1, 1953		
U. S. Series G 2½ % Bond	\$1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	1,411.67	
Brookline Savings Bank	1,795.27	
		<u>\$4,206.94</u>
Receipts for 1953		
Membership Dues	494.00	
Gifts	1.50	
Sale of "Old Brookline Houses"	19.60	
Sale of "Proceedings"	2.00	
Sale of 100 maps	15.00	
Interest on Series G 2½ % Bond	25.00	
Interest on Savings Bank Deposit	45.32	
		<u>602.42</u>
		<u><u>\$4,809.36</u></u>
Payments for 1953		
Secretary's Expense—		
Postage	\$23.93	
Printing	13.75	
Treasurer's Expense—		
Postage and Printing	24.93	
Collations	19.66	
Chairs Rental	6.13	
Photo Print	1.16	
Membership Dues	5.50	
Maps	9.39	
Printing Proceedings	172.50	
Bank Charges	1.27	
Janitor Service	3.00	
		<u>281.22</u>
Cash and Securities on hand December 31, 1953		
U. S. Series G 2½ % Bond	1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	1,662.55	
Brookline Savings Bank	1,865.59	
		<u>4,528.14</u>
		<u><u>\$4,809.36</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT P. BRIGGS,

Treasurer

January 1, 1954

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 18, 1953

During the year 1952 we had about twenty-five paid visitors to the house, coming from a number of different states which included Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Oregon, and Vermont, as well as Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Columbia, South America. On January 20th our Society held its annual meeting here, and on November 13th the Joanna Aspinwall Chapter D. A. R. met in the house and included a program by the C. A. R. (Children of the American Revolution.)

There were only two gifts made to the Society this year for use in the Devotion House. These were a yarn winder and a niddy-noddy, given by Dr. Frederick L. Taylor of Brookline, and much appreciated.

The Town has continued its program of basic maintenance to the house which has included repairing of the back steps and bulkhead stairs, replacing a broken cold air vent in the front hall with a new metal one, and placing an extension ladder in the cellar for use in removing snow and leaves from gutters. Two major improvements have also been effected by the Town. One of these was the restoring of the window over the back door which had been closed up many years ago, thereby rendering the room it lighted little more than a dark hall. This room has now been returned to normal usefulness. The other is the installing of combination screen and storm windows and doors, the frames of which remain permanently in place throughout the year. The Board of Selectmen requested the Committee on Rooms to meet with them last spring to discuss this innovation, and although your Chairman was the only member able to attend, a thorough discussion of all types of permanent windows was held to determine which type would be the most useful and the best designed to preserve the exterior appearance of the house. The present windows, carefully fitted so as not to obscure the old panes underneath, are the result.

In November the Trustees voted to accede to the request of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. to loan the portrait of Reverend Devotion by Winthrop Chandler, to their Davidson Art Center to be part of an exhibition entitled "Ralph Earl and his Contemporaries: the Connecticut School." Twenty-five portraits by 18th century Connecticut artists, of which Chandler was a contemporary, were loaned to the exhibit by such owners as Yale University, Dartmouth College, and the Worcester Museum, and I was able to be present at the preview which was

attended by many museum people and students in the field of American painting. I was glad to have our Society represented in such a worthwhile exhibition. An article on the exhibition, which illustrates our portrait among others, has just appeared in the January issue of the "Art News".

Respectfully submitted,

NINA F. LITTLE,
Chairman, Committee on Rooms

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Nominating Committee has the honor to present the following names for officers and trustees of the Brookline Historical Society for the ensuing year:

For Clerk:

LEA S. LUQUER

For Treasurer:

ALBERT P. BRIGGS

For Trustees:

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH
MRS. HARRISON G. BRIDGE
MISS ELIZABETH BUTCHER
GORHAM DANA
J. FRANCIS DRISCOLL
DONALD K. PACKARD
S. MORTON VOSE

BERTRAM K. LITTLE, *Chairman*
MRS. YVES H. BUHLER
CHARLES B. BLANCHARD

January 18, 1953

JOHN D. RUNKLE

John Daniel Runkle was born in the little town of Root — Montgomery County, New York on October 11, 1822 and died in Southwest Harbor, Maine on July 8, 1902, aged 80 years. His early life, spent on his father's farm, was a "self helpful" one in which he and his four brothers did their part. He attended the district schools and at 16 went to a private school run by a senior from Union College. Here he began the study of advanced mathematics which greatly interested him. For a number of



years he worked alone and prepared himself for college while working on the farm and teaching a district school. In 1847, at the age of 25, he wrote Prof. Benjamin Pierce for advice, and as a result entered the new Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard as a student in Mathematics. He graduated in 1851, receiving a degree of S.B. and an honorary degree of A.M. for his excellent work.

In 1858 he founded the Mathematical Monthly, and was able to find famous contributors from America and Europe; but the magazine did not continue after the outbreak of the Civil War.

When William Barton Rogers came from the University of Virginia to live in Boston and was working to establish a tech-

nical school there, Runkle was greatly interested in assisting him. He became a member, and later secretary, of the famous Committee of Twenty that joined to put through the Rogers plan. In 1861, when the election of officers of the new Massachusetts Institute of Technology took place, Runkle was the one who notified Rogers of his election as president. When the Institute actually opened in February 1865, Runkle was the professor of Mathematics. This was in the first location of the school—the Mercantile Association Building on Summer Street, corner of Hawley in downtown Boston.

Meanwhile, the corporation had applied to the state for land on the newly filled Back Bay, and was soon granted two-thirds of a lot on Huntington Avenue between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets, the rest of the lot going to the Boston Society of Natural History. Construction was started at once on the Rogers Building, which included Huntington Hall, named after Ralph Huntington, an early benefactor of M. I. T. Huntington Hall, long the meeting-place of the Lowell Institute for its lectures, contained the famous frieze of Paul H. Neffen, one of the first of its kind in America. For 50 years this building was the official home of M. I. T. until the removal to Cambridge in 1916. In 1939 it was torn down to make room for the magnificent great office building of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.

President Rogers became ill in 1868 and was obliged to take an extended vacation. Prof. Runkle was made acting-President at Pres. Rogers' request. Through the next 8 years—the most difficult in the life of the Institute due to financial trials and the effects of the panic of 1873—Runkle carried on not without many discouragements and became exhausted by overwork and worry. In 1878 he resigned and took a leave of absence for two years. Pres. Rogers improved in health and was induced to return to the presidency. In a trip abroad, Runkle visited several countries, studying the technical progress being made there. When he returned he wrote an exhaustive paper on technical and industrial education in Europe.

In 1876 he visited the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and was much interested in the mechanical exhibits there, especially those from Russia. Duplicates of some of these exhibits were later donated to M. I. T. by the Russian government. On his return he introduced some of these subjects at M. I. T., including a school of Mechanics Arts.

On his return from abroad, Prof. Runkle resumed his position as head of the Mathematics Department which he held for the rest of his active life.

During his 10 year term as president, he conducted a summer school trip to Colorado and Utah with 15 students to see

actual mining operations. He and Prof. Richards also went to San Francisco to observe mining and metallurgy work and to order equipment for a mining laboratory at M. I. T. In 1877 he started a two year course in the School of Mechanics Arts. During this period, women were first admitted as students, and a gymnasium and lunch room were established in a temporary building just west of the Rogers Building. The number of students increased from a mere handful to about 850. His administration was one of wisdom, courage, and the successful carrying out of his pledge to follow the plans of William B. Rogers, the founder.

At various times there were discussions in regard to a union with Harvard College, but both Rogers and Runkle successfully resisted the idea.

Prof. Runkle had a notable life in Brookline. His name first appeared on the town records in 1870 when he was listed as a resident of Harvard Street and paying a tax on \$1500 of value. The next year he was living on Harrison Place, which was then that part of Kent Street adjoining Harvard Street. In 1874 he bought the lot of land on High Street numbered 84, containing 10,000 square feet. Here he built the brick dwelling later occupied by Homer Albers and now occupied by Mrs. John L. Newell. This he occupied in 1875, remaining here until he left Brookline in 1897 when he moved to Cambridge where two of his children were going to college. He later enlarged his High Street lot until it contained 22,500 square feet, and in 1894 he built the house in the rear of the lot numbered 82 High Street and now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ware.

He was elected to the Brookline School Committee in 1882 and remained a member for 15 years—during part of the time as chairman. The Runkle School on Druce Street and Clinton Road, built in 1897, was named after him, and will always be a reminder of this illustrious citizen. While on the School Committee he was able to have adopted into the school system more of his favorite scientific studies, including carpentry for the boys and sewing for the girls.

During his stay in Brookline he was an active member of the Brookline Thursday Club. This Club was organized at a meeting held at the home of Dr. Nathaniel C. Towle on the corner of Webster Place and Harvard Street on January 24, 1872. At the second meeting of the Club in April of that year, John D. Runkle was elected, and was therefore one of the original members. He was vice-president in 1883 and president in 1885. He is recorded as a member until May 1874 when he went abroad. On his return in 1880 he again became a member and remained such until he moved to Cambridge in 1897.

Prof. Runkle was a man of great learning and wide interests. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society for the Advancement of Science, the American Social Science Association, and the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. He received an honorary degree of Ph.D. from Hamilton College in 1867 and LL.D. from Wesleyan University in 1871.

As a teacher Prof. Runkle was stimulating and unconventional. Intellectually he was quick and ardent, warm and generous in his affection—a sincere and loyal gentleman. He was much beloved by his students—more so than any other teacher of his group. In his death M.I.T. lost a most lovable teacher and Brookline lost one of its foremost former citizens.

—MR. GORHAM DANA

CHANGES AT COOLIDGE CORNER SINCE THE BEACON STREET WIDENING

I was asked to write of the changes in the Coolidge Corner area since Beacon Street was widened and made into a boulevard in 1887. In order to concentrate on a very definite geographical section, I chose to use Beacon Street from St. Paul to Marion Street and Harvard Street from Alton Place to Williams Street. The Engineering Department of the town had two maps copied for me, and they have proved very helpful.

We'll just walk along these two main streets, stopping once in a while to look down a few side streets, and take note of places of interest there.

You will notice that in addition to the numerous changes, particularly of residences, I have noted some buildings happily still standing in their places, where they were built long ago.

Quoting from Mr. Stearns' report to Brookline Historical Society, January 1914, "Coolidge Corner is recognized as an important business center, bidding fair to equal, if not exceed, the business of the so-called Village section."

Again from his report to Brookline Historical Society, January 1915:

"The town continues to grow, especially in the northern part; the increase about Coolidge Corner is most marked. A great impetus to the growth of this section of the town was given by the widening of Beacon Street in 1887, and the establishment of the trolley line thereon. In 1886, nearly all the land north of Beacon Street was occupied by farms. There was vacant land of the farms of the Babcock, Coolidge, Griggs and Corey families. At that time, there were on the south side of Beacon Street, from St. Mary's Street to Chestnut Hill Avenue, a distance of little more than two miles, nine buildings, all but one of them wooden, and of but little value, and on the north side, twelve, three of them of brick. Today these farms are nearly covered with houses, and Beacon Street is lined for the greater part of the way with brick and stone buildings."

An item in the *Chronicle* for July 21, 1900, reads:

"In the march of twenty short years a country corner, sleepy in its suburban security, has given place to a bustling square, passed by thousands daily, and already on the way to being one of the most important spots in Greater Boston outside of the city limits."

The very next month, August 4, 1900, a line of electric cars was opened on Harvard Street. The route was from the Allston car barns to Coolidge Corner, to Harvard Square, Washington Street, Huntington Avenue to Boylston Street, and via the subway to Park Street, Boston.

In 1936, at a meeting of the Brookline Historical Society, Miss Helen McCleary read a paper entitled, "Coolidge Corner Fifty Years Ago". It was autobiographical. She, with her family, had moved into Brookline from Boston in 1884, and lived on Harvard Street near the corner of Williams until 1901. The McClearys found Coolidge Corner a delightfully rural place. Many others so remember it.

What happened to change it to the busy, noisy place it now is, and where are the many old homes and gardens, the farms and woods, which then made it beautiful?

In the first place, in 1887, not long, you see, after the McCleary family moved to Coolidge Corner, the matter of widening Beacon Street — extending and developing it into a beautiful boulevard — was much discussed. The West End Land Company, through Mr. Henry M. Whitney, owner of much property along the way, suggested that such a plan would be of advantage not only to the owners of property, but that the town itself would profit in taxes, and in better means of transportation between Brookline and Boston.

The plan was first formally brought to public attention by the petition of about a hundred citizens, on August 9, 1896, requesting the selectmen to "lay out a townway, or townways, by the side of the highway in said town, called Beacon Street, beginning at or near St. Mary's Street at the boundary line of the city of Boston, and ending at the boundary line of said city, easterly of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, so as to make an avenue, including the present area of Beacon Street, 200 feet in width".

December 20, 1886, a town meeting was called by the selectmen, to make application to the legislature for this extension and laying out, from St. Mary's Street to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. In February 1887, an act was passed by the legislature authorizing Brookline to so alter and widen Beacon Street, and at a special town meeting, March 29, 1887, the way as laid out by the selectmen was accepted and allowed by the town. The work was begun by the contractor on Monday, May 9, 1887.

In the *Chronicle* of February 26, 1887, we find that "the clerk in the department of the Secretary of the Commonwealth paid a very handsome tribute to Moses Williams, Esq. in character-

izing the bill drawn up by him for the widening of Beacon Street as one of the most thoroughly guarded bills that had passed through the department for many years".

In the same issue of the *Chronicle* was this item :

"The people of Brookline are under obligations to Senator Glines of Middlesex for the faithful and impartial manner in which, as chairman of the committee on roads and bridges, he conducted the hearing before that committee relative to the Beacon Street enabling act. His promptness in reporting the bill asked for, his able defense of it, and his successful attempts to secure its passage in the senate, are deserving of special recognition".

Well, Beacon Street was widened, having first been laid waste, and little steam trains brought loads of gravel from everywhere. That ever-sinking hollow at the foot of the slope near St. Paul Street was filled in, so they thought, for good. The hill was graded, and everything was laid out in good shape. Car tracks were laid in the middle, a row of trees planted on each side of the tracks and on the sidewalks, and a bridle path made at one side of the tracks.

From *Brookline's Trees*, by Emma G. Cummings, I quote, "With two exceptions, this area, and the sidewalks, were planted with American elms. In 1937, there were 1000 elm trees in four rows as far as the town lines. The two exceptions:—Mr. Jacob W. Pierce gave 100 red oaks which were set along Corey Hill on the upper side of the lower driveway. Mr. James H. Bowditch gave more than 40 pin oaks, and these were placed in line with the red oaks".

"Electricity was then known to have been used as the power for propelling street cars, and promoters of this enterprise (Beacon Street Widening) promised electric cars on the new Beacon Street boulevard. Thus, after repeated and costly experiments, the first successful electric street railway *in the world*, on a through way, was provided on our own Beacon Street".

This last statement is from *Old Streets in Brookline*, by Daniel G. Lacey, 1950.

By the widening of Beacon Street, that part of Pleasant Street which had crossed Beacon and extended to Harvard was cut off and absorbed into the new boulevard.

According to Mr. Curtis in *History of Brookline*, "The cost of making the Beacon Street boulevard was \$465,000. Within six years the land in strips of 500 feet wide on each side of the street, had increased by \$4,330,400.00 in assessed valuation, with a resultant increase in revenue at the tax rate of \$11.80 per thousand then prevailing, of \$51,000.00 a year. Economic justification of the undertaking was prompt and convincing."

All this sounds like real progress, but some of the penalties were severe, after all, for the almost rural beauty of the Coolidge Corner area has wholly gone. Year by year, the changes came, and many homes and gardens, lawns and trees are only memories, and to only the oldest of us, at that.

No buildings on the north side of Beacon Street between St. Paul and Summit Avenue had to be destroyed in the widening, but on the south side, several had to come down or be moved.

Mr. Charles H. Stearns' house was moved nearer to Longwood Avenue and Harvard Street. The Harvard School, on Pleasant Street, was torn down and never rebuilt.

Continuing, on the south side of Beacon Street:—

The Harrington house was moved to Longwood Avenue and the house beside it, where is now the Brookline Trust building, was taken down, and Mr. George Wheeler's house at the corner of Beacon and the present Webster Street was moved to the corner of Harvard and Williams Streets. It was taken down when the Kehillath Israel School was erected, not too long ago. This house had been built on Beacon Street by William D. Coolidge when he moved from the apartment over his store in 1878.

Beyond Park Street, the Capt. Samuel Hutchinson house, a large one, was razed, also the George W. Armstrong house facing Beacon Street. Austin Benton's house at the corner of Beacon and Marion Streets was moved back and turned to face Marion Street, where it is now.

Beginning on the north side of the street let us see the changes and additions. Should I call them *all* improvements?

In 1916, the d'Hauteville property on Beacon Street at St. Paul, was sold and apartment houses erected. James Street, cut through the James Stearns' property to Pleasant Street,

was accepted by the town in 1925, and is now lined with apartment blocks. The making of James Street necessitated the removal of the homes of William Stearns and Roger Merrill on Pleasant Street. Apartment buildings followed in rapid succession along Beacon Street on the James Stearns' land. On the triangle at the junction of Pleasant Street and Beacon was erected, in 1926, the fine fireproof building called Pelham Hall: stores on the ground floor and apartments above. Gone are the gardens, lawns, orchard and greenhouse of James Stearns, whose house, facing Pleasant Street, has been bought by the town and used since 1928 by the Coolidge Corner Branch Library.

Across Pleasant Street the James S. Whitney property has been wholly converted to business blocks and large garages. The Whitney house faced Pleasant Street, where now is one of the garages. The beautiful gardens extending along Beacon Street to Harvard gave place in 1912 to the Liggett Block of stores and offices. There is a brief history of this Whitney estate in the Proceedings of this Society for January 1913.

It was to a store in this block, at 277 Harvard Street, that the Coolidge Corner Branch Library, or Reading Room, as it was then, was moved, after its first home in Hayman's drugstore was discontinued.

Let us go back to Pleasant Street to see how the years have treated the homes there. Just beyond the Whitney place and Waldo Street, there were two houses which were taken down when the big garage, now called the *Pleasant Street Garage*, was built. Along the street, the lower floor is occupied by stores from Waldo Street to John Street. On the further corner of John Street still stands the house of Mr. John Stearns, whose daughter, Mrs. Young, lived there until her death two or three years ago.

Beside it is the Admiral Joseph F. Green house, now the home of Miss Caroline Fish, and beyond that are two old houses, set back from the street, owned by Leicester R. Potter since 1923. Close to the street on the lawn between these two houses is a fine specimen of an old English oak tree, which was brought from England and planted there. These two houses were bought by Mr. Potter from Mrs. E. Prescott Brackett, who lived just beyond in the third house. At the corner of Dwight Street, on Pleasant, the home of William C. Tyler, built in the 50's, was torn down about this time, to make way for more apartments.

Back on Beacon Street again, we cross Harvard and come to the corner where stood the old grocery store which gave this.

section its name: the store of Coolidge and Brothers, built in 1857. Mr. William D. Coolidge lived for a time in the apartment over the store. Mr. Edward W. Baker in a paper written in 1910, reminds us that "Coolidge's grocery store at the corner was a sort of Democratic headquarters in 1861, and was called 'Copperhead Crossroads', although as time went on the name at first applied was forgotten in the loyalty shown by those identified with that center".

The Coolidge's store was finally bought by S. S. Pierce and Co. and moved west along Beacon Street as far as a wooden block built by Seth Baker, and though made over, part of it, at least, still stands there, connected with the new building, which was built in 1899, and recently modernized and beautified. A very complete history of its changes in ownership has been told by Miss McCleary in another paper in the files of this Society.

The wooden block of stores built in 1891 by Seth Baker, referred to above, burned in 1913, and at that time S. S. Pierce built in its place a block of fireproof stores and offices. In 1906, the Boulevard Post Office occupied a large space in this block.

When the Taylor house and stable, nearly opposite the building of the Brookline Trust Co., were torn down, a block of stores was erected on the land of Emily J. Northend, which was an open lot at the time of the widening of Beacon Street on the corner of Beacon and Centre. In the block at Number 1356 was Purinton's Market.

On the other corner of Centre Street stood the house of J. Emory Hoar, master of the high school and later the first librarian. In 1893, this house was moved to face Centre Street to make room for a two-storey block of stores and offices. The house is now the home of Seaton M. Sharp. The block of stores was called the Farquarson Block, as the Farquarson candy store occupied the corner.

Go up Centre Street and see, on the left, at number 16, the J. Emory Hoar house which was turned from facing Beacon Street, and on the right, number 51, is the old William Griggs farm house, which was moved from its Harvard Street location in 1919-1920.

Beyond the Farquarson Block, on land owned by Sarah Mellen in 1889, are more apartment blocks extending to Winchester Street.

On Winchester Street just beyond the apartments at the corner, is the Shailer house, and beyond that are other houses built on the old William Griggs farm property which originally

covered the entire square from 320 Harvard Street through to Winchester. Centre Street, Wellman Street and Shailer Street were cut through the farm land, and many of the houses there were built by Mr. Griggs.

Way up on Winchester Street, almost to the town line, the Toboggan Club had its little building, from the roof of which the coasters cut across the Coolidge farm, until building began, and the coasting had to cease. But it was a merry sport while it lasted.

From Winchester Street to Summit Avenue on land owned by Elbridge Wason in 1889, are more apartments. On the opposite corner of Summit Avenue stood a large house with beautiful gardens. The house, built by Edward A. Raymond in 1861-62, was bought by George W. Mitton, then president of the Jordan Marsh Co., in 1893. In 1917, this became the Beacon School, but was finally torn down, and now one-storey stores line Beacon Street and apartment blocks are on Summit Avenue in the rear.

If you look up Summit Avenue you'll see on the right hand side, a block of wooden houses, painted brown, which were there before Beacon Street was widened.

We'll now return to the south side of Beacon Street. About 1890, James A. Sawtelle built a wooden house at the corner of St. Paul Street, which still stands, now occupied by the Sturtevant Nursing Home.

About the same time, Frederick Bradley built a large brick house at 1243 Beacon Street, between the Sawtelle house and Charles Street. His widow re-married and since then the house, which still stands, has been known by her new name, the George E. Carter house. Within a year or two it has been re-modelled to serve as doctors' offices. We are grateful that a magnificent elm tree, which stands beside it, was spared, though in the middle of a parking lot.

In 1890, too, Alexander P. Sears built his wooden house on Charles Street at the corner of Beacon, and this has changed hands and has been made into a doctors' office building.

The property on the other side of Charles Street belonged to Charles H. Stearns, who, about this same time, built a wooden house facing Charles Street, and rented it to Dr. J. Herbert Moore. This house, later, was moved nearer Beacon Street and was occupied by the Wightman family of tennis fame, and the vacancy filled by the erection of a colonial style brick church for the Second Unitarian Society, in 1916. When this Society

merged with the Second Society in Boston, the building was sold to the Temple Sinai congregation.

It would be too bad to fail to mention the old house at 64 Sewall Avenue at the corner of Charles Street, the Edward Russell home, 1889-1908, in 1910 the home of the Misses DeBacon, and since 1928, the home of Dr. Harrison L. Harley. At 65 Sewall Avenue is the house of Willard A. Vose, of Vose Piano Co., now a nursing home.

When the Wightman house was torn down, its place was taken by a filling station.

The Brookline Post Office, built in 1935, comes next; then a block of stores and offices; the Brookline Federal Savings and Loan Association, formerly the Coolidge Corner Co-operative Bank, in its recently erected brick building, and then the very large space occupied by the Coolidge Corner Gulf Service Station, and its parking area which extends back to Longwood Avenue.

The fine building of the Norfolk County Trust Co. occupies the corner of Beacon and Harvard Streets. It was erected in 1931, and a third floor added in 1948. Earlier there had been a much smaller building on this corner built for the real estate office of Frank E. Russell, in 1904-1905. The same building was afterward used by the Boulevard Trust Co. in 1910, but it was torn down when the present building was built. The Norfolk County Trust Co. is the successor to the Boulevard Trust Co.

All these buildings between Charles Street and Harvard are located on the property of Charles H. Stearns, whose home was a part of the old Sewall farm, the house built about 1767. This old house was torn down and the trees and gardens destroyed in 1937, after Mr. Stearns' death. What a pity that it should have been sacrificed! Coolidge Corner needed a restful green spot to offset the noise and glare of the business area.

Miss McCleary has written an interesting history of this historic estate and it is in your files.

Across Harvard Street, is a new block of stores erected in 1950. At the time Beacon Street was widened, this was a vacant lot owned by Harrison Bird. In 1904, Mr. E. B. Dane erected a business block on the lot, which extended from the corner to a house owned by Dr. Moore. The corner store in this block was Dr. A. J. Hayman's drug store and it was here that the library trustees, in response to a citizens' petition, placed a case of books, to circulate as from the public library, in January 1904. This was the beginning of the Coolidge Corner Branch Library, then only a deposit station. Miss Ethel J. Heath, who went

there every morning to see how her drug clerks-become-librarians were getting along, later became the librarian of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy on Longwood Avenue in Boston.

In 1912, Mr. Hayman gave up his business, and the place was rented to Mr. Walter Paige of the Henry Savage real estate agency, and to Mr. John E. Cousens and Co., coal merchants.

In 1929, the block of stores was torn down, most of them having been vacant for a long time and the place was an eyesore. There remained only a vacant lot used as a parking place, then as a used-car market, until in 1950, the present block of modern stores was built, a fine addition to the area. One of the famous Howard Johnson restaurants occupies the large corner one.

In 1919, Mr. Dane bought Dr. J. Herbert Moore's house at 1339 Beacon Street, a large house with stores on the ground floor, built in 1901, and it was taken down to make way for the large building of the Brookline Trust Co.

Beyond this building are three large brick buildings: stores on the ground floor, and apartments above them, built on land of Frank H. Howes and John W. Shapleigh. One store was occupied, in 1890, by the grocery store of a branch of Newcomb & Frost, later taken over by B. F. Adams & Co.

In 1900, the Boulevard Post Office occupied the store at 1357 Beacon Street. Also in these buildings, do you remember, were Heald's Market and the Woman's Exchange?

We now have reached Park and Webster Street. Across, the end of Webster Street, were two houses at the corner of Park. The first, that of Henry Seaverns and the other a large double house, property of the heirs of Sarah J. Kingman, where Albert Cushing lived for a time until he moved to a house on Beacon Street near the corner of Marion, but no longer there.

The Baptist Church occupies the sites of two houses: the big double house, corner of Webster and Park, and another house on Park Street. The church was built in 1907-08, and later, to protect itself from encroaching business, the church people bought the property of Henry Seaverns, and left it an open space.

Just below the church on Park Street, was the little house, a step or two down from the sidewalk, where lived George Dearborn, a police lieutenant, well-known in town. This house is no longer there, for the ubiquitous apartments took its place.

Park Street meets Beacon at the Baptist Church corner. On the opposite corner is a block of stores on the old Hutchinson

lot. Next, the "Regent", a large apartment building on the William H. Hill property, which extended back to Marion Street, where Mr. Hill's house still is.

Beyond the "Regent" was the Armstrong land. This extended through to Marion Street and Mr. George W. Armstrong, of the Armstrong Transfer Co. and of the Armstrong Dining-Room and News Co., lived for years in a house facing Marion Street. However, in 1901, he built a large house on the Beacon Street side of his lot, which was sold by his widow in 1913. The house and stable, gardens and trees are no more. In their place is a block of apartments, and beyond, on the Austin Benton land, is a block of stores which extends to the corner of Beacon and Marion Streets. Mr. Benton was a selectman for many years.

Between the apartment block and the stores is the house built by Mr. Benton for his daughter at the time of her marriage.

In 1893 and 1899, Harvard Street was widened, but on a much smaller scale than was Beacon Street. Not much land was cut from properties along the way and it was unnecessary to raze or move any buildings on its account.

Beginning at Alton Place, east side of Harvard Street, on the south corner lay the Ferris estate, consisting of a large, square brick house facing Alton Place, and a magnificent, well-kept lawn from the house to Harvard Street — a wide expanse. That was one of Harvard Street's beauty spots for many years, but in 1916 the lawn was sacrificed to an apartment block, and the house became Madam Achard's School. Later, the house too was destroyed and apartments went up on Alton Place.

On the other side of Alton Place, on Harvard Street, were the house, stable and gardens of Elbridge Wason. That area is now covered with stores. Just in back of the Wason land, on Alton Place, is the home of Eliakim Littell, founder of *Litell's Living Age*, who, again quoting from the Curtis *History of Brookline*, "was perhaps the first editor to discover that a magazine could be entirely produced with no other tools than scissors and paste". The house has been here since 1884 and is now occupied by Dr. Pollock's school.

Beyond the Wason house, on Harvard Street again, was for many years a large white wooden house, with wide space in its rear, home of Mrs. Anna W. Gooding. Do you remember the big iron lions at the entrance? After her death, the house was used as the Old White House Inn, in 1919, but not for very long. Now the house is no more and the Elm Farm store and its large parking lot has taken its place.

Norman Court, brick apartments, corner of Harvard Street and Stearns Road, were built in 1906 on land belonging to Mary Ann Putnam. On the opposite corner of Stearns Road, where now is "The Coolidge", was, long ago, the home of "Aunt Nancy Stearns". The house is still standing but has been moved further down Stearns Road.

When we cross Stearns Road and Sewall Avenue, where they come into Harvard Street, we arrive at a flat-iron shaped brick block — all apartments at first, but now offices as well. This was built on land of Charles Sinclair in 1901-02.

Just beyond was the house of Levi L. Wilcutt in 1887, but that too has gone to give room for more stores, with offices above.

Across Longwood Avenue is the parking lot of the Gulf Oil Company, at the corner of Harvard and Beacon Streets, which we noticed on our walk up Beacon Street.

We come again, after crossing Beacon Street, to the business blocks which cover the land of the Whitneys and that of John S. Shepherd, later of Lucy E. Hall in 1899, which brings us to Green Street. George Griggs (called Lawyer Griggs) lived in a house just below the corner of Green Street until it was torn down to make place for apartment blocks.

The house of John F. Winch on the opposite corner of Green Street, but facing Harvard, was in 1916 pushed back and turned about to face Green Street, and one-story stores were built on Harvard Street, where the house had been. The house was torn down later, and the Telephone Company has built a business office there. Mr. Winch's house, before 1887, had been the home of the Masons, of the Mason and Hamlin Piano Company.

Several of the large houses on Green Street are being used now for convalescent homes or rooming houses, as are such houses on other streets in town.

In 1915, Brookline bought the house and land of the Zenas F. Brett heirs, remodelled the house and used it for the Coolidge Corner Branch Library until 1928, when it was sold, as was the house beyond it, that of Joseph F. Baker which had become one of the Waterman funeral homes. Blocks of stores were built on both lots, and joined to the earlier block at corner of Green Street. In front of the Brett house was a white hawthorne tree which grew to a large size while the library occupied the place. Every spring it was a glory of snow white blossoms, and in the autumn the quantity of red haws attracted many birds. One year, in particular, large flocks of cedar waxwings interested many who were passing by. In the rear, the library janitor had

a garden, and the first strawberries and asparagus were always presented to the librarian, and were greatly enjoyed by her, you may be sure. The library staff raised flowers, — pansies nasturtiums, etc., for decoration of the library desk.

A block of brick houses, apartments, was built on Babcock Street at the corner of Harvard Street, in place of the house of J. F. and Cyrus Baker. Further down Babcock Street is the house of George A. Webber and the double wooden house of Matthew McNeilly and Robert Whigham, which were here before the Beacon Street widening.

On the other corner of Babcock Street, on Harvard, where now is a large brick block of stores and offices, built about 1926, was formerly the home of Edwin A. Norton, and earlier of Grenville C. Tyler. In 1927, the Post Office occupied a store in this building, at 335 Harvard Street. The town of Brookline owns the land from here to Stedman Street, which was cut through the property of James Beals, and accepted by the town in 1898. On the town's land are three buildings of the Edward Devotion School, and also the little, old house of the Devotions, John and Edward. Much has been written about this family and house, and you know all about it. I have nothing to add.

We'll now go back and down Harvard Street below the Corner, and on the west side, beginning at Foster Street, which is itself a new road, not an accepted street, on land of Morrill Frost. Here, we find that the Sunoco Service Station occupies the home site of John C. Abbott, later of Hatherly C. Foster. The house was razed and the orchard in the rear was destroyed about 1940, I think, or a few years earlier.

Beside this filling station is another, at the corner of Marion Street, on land formerly owned by Benjamin F. Adams, whose house on Marion Street still is standing, and in the place of a house built on part of Mr. Adams' land by Dr. Slack, a Congregational minister. This house, a large one, after the death of Dr. and Mrs. Slack, was made over into apartments, then shortly after torn down for the use of the filling station.

Looking down Marion Street we'll see, beside Mr. Adams' square wooden house, the house built by George Green, where his widow continued to live until her death in the 1920's. Further down is the Cabot School, no longer used as a school however, which was built on property of John Knox Marshall, who later lived on Summit Avenue, and a Mr. Walter.

On the other side of the street, back of Harvard Church, stands the Telephone Exchange, built 1916-17, where Mr. Monroe Goodspeed used to live. Mr. Goodspeed's livery stable on Wash-

ington Street opposite the Town Hall, will be remembered. The Harvard Church has been beautifully re-built, after its almost total destruction by fire in 1930. Next the church is a block of stores extending to Webster Street. Here had been the house built in 1850 by Moses Warren, but from 1859 the home of Henry L. Pierce — a wooden house on a large lot.

On Webster Street we find Young's Garage occupies much of that side of the Pierce land. Opposite it is the brick building housing an electric transformer of the Boston Elevated (Metropolitan Transit Authority). Between this building and the stores on Harvard Street is the house of Albert Bird which was turned from the corner when those stores were built.

Beyond the corner of Webster Street, on Harvard, were the two houses of Albert H. Bird and Harrison Bird. One, mentioned just now, was moved onto Webster Street. The other continued to stand in its place until fairly recently, having at the last been a photographer's studio, Mr. Jamieson's, just beyond the end of the block of stores. In 1938, the end store, made over, enlarged and with a new front, became a new home for China Inn, which had been located further up on Harvard Street in a tiny shop which it had outgrown. Beyond China Inn is Mr. Dane's new block of stores, and here we are back on Beacon Street.

Across the street, beyond the S. S. Pierce store, were, in 1902, properties of Thomas C. Selfridge, Anna B. Loughton (or Leighton) Emily G. Seaverns, and Laura Hallett, before reaching the farm of William J. Griggs, which extended from there to Williams Street, formerly called Second Street.

Mr. Selfridge lived in Washington, D. C. and prior to 1890 his house was the home of Rev. Ruen Thomas, minister of Harvard Church. He used to pasture his horse in the large lot in the rear, which extended to Centre Street, property of Emily Northend. When Dr. Thomas moved to a house he had built on Rawson Road, Dr. Cooper lived here until the house was taken down, when he moved to a house on Marion Street at the corner of Park. This one, which has gone now to make room for apartment blocks, had earlier been occupied by Grenville Tyler, grandfather of selectman Dan Tyler.

In 1906, the Beacon Universalist Society erected a large building opposite Green Street, on the properties of Anna Loughton, Emily Seaverns and Laura Hallett, combining its church auditorium and other rooms on the upper floor, with a ground floor of stores. One of the stores was Buxbaum's Market, which brings to mind the remark of a small boy who, when asked where he attended Sunday School, replied "I go to Buxbaum's

church!" Some years later, this church society disbanded, and after much heated discussion, debates, petitions, etc., a movie theatre was at last, in 1933, permitted to remodel this building into a theatre, retaining stores on the ground floor.

Now we have reached the old William Griggs property, or rather what remained after a good deal had been sold for house lots and streets cut through. This was where the farm house stood until, when Brewster Terrace was built, about 1915, it was moved back and turned to face Centre Street, where it remains.

Mr. Griggs died in May, 1906, having served the town as selectman for eight years; also he had been Overseer of the Poor. He was an ardent supporter of the Baptist Church and contributed largely to the new building.

About 1920, Dr. Everett W. Bowker, whose wife was a daughter of Mr. Griggs, built a house and garage on the lot just south of Brewster Terrace, and opposite Babcock Street. After his death, the house was sold, stores were erected and the family moved to Blake Park and later to Evans Road. The whole of the Harvard Street part of the William Griggs farm is now covered with stores and other business buildings, including the Arcade Building and the Jewish Community Center, excepting only the apartment blocks at the corner of Shailer Street.

We are almost at the end of our walk, as Williams Street meets Harvard on the edge of the Griggs property, but for just a moment look beyond the Synagogue on the opposite corner, and see the house at 390 Harvard Street. It is the Jonathan L. Dexter home, which Mr. Dexter bought in 1885. It had been occupied by the Cobb and the Getchell families before the Dexters, so it must be pretty old. It is now occupied by a son and a daughter of Mr. Dexter.

We have traversed the streets in the Coolidge Corner area, and have seen how business has crowded and is continuing to crowd out the homes and open spaces. On Beacon Street, west from Harvard, there is a tendency to utilize many street-floor apartments for business, even by building show windows out to the sidewalk. Thus business extends itself almost the whole length of Beacon Street, and the same is true of Harvard.

It is not hard to understand why Coolidge Corner developed so rapidly after Beacon Street was made so wide, straight and beautiful an approach from Boston, and there was for a long time plenty of parking space for shoppers, which Boston did not

have. Naturally, so much business activity has resulted in an almost unbelievable increase in land and building values.

Would you go back to the "good old days?"

I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of the

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT,
which had parts of two large maps copied for me;

ASSESSORS DEPARTMENT,
which gave me personal access to all the old tax lists
and atlases;

BUILDING DEPARTMENT,
which took time to ferret out dates of building and
moving of buildings.

I have had very pleasant and profitable talks with:—

MISS HELEN McCLEARY
MISS MARY L. DEXTER
MRS. LUCY GRIGGS BOWKER
MR. CARL GOODSPEED
MRS. MARGARET SEARS ATWOOD
MR. LEICESTER P. POTTER

Other authorities:

Files of the *Brookline Chronicle*
The Chronicle. Souvenir of Brookline's Bicentennial.
Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society.
Curtis — *History of Brookline*.

—MISS LILLA N. MORSE

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY - LAWS

AS AMENDED 1949

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this corporation shall be Brookline Historical Society.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTS

The objects of this Society shall be the study of the history of town of Brookline, Massachusetts, its societies, organizations, families, individuals, events; the collection and preservation of its antiquities, the establishment and maintenance of an historical library, and the publication from time to time of such information relating to the same as shall be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Any person of moral character who shall be nominated and approved by the Board of Trustees may be elected to membership by ballot of two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon at any regular meeting of the Society. Each person so elected shall pay an annual assessment of two dollars; and any member who shall fail for two consecutive years to pay the annual assessment shall cease to be a member of this Society; *provided*, however, that any member who shall pay twenty-five dollars in any one year may thereby become a Life member; and any member who shall pay fifty dollars in any one year may thereby become a Benefactor of the Society, and thereafter shall be free from all dues and assessments. The money received from Life members and Benefactors shall constitute a fund, of which not more than twenty per cent, together with the annual income therefrom, shall be spent in any one year.

The Society may elect Honorary and Corresponding members in the manner in which annual members are elected, but they shall have no voice in the management of the Society, and shall not be subject to fee or assessment.

ARTICLE IV

CERTIFICATES

Certificates signed by the President and the Clerk may be issued to all persons who become Life members, and to Benefactors.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The officers of this Society shall be seven Trustees, a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary (who shall be Clerk of the Society, and may also be elected to fill the office of Treasurer), and a Treasurer, who, together shall constitute the Board of Trustees. The Trustees, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall hold office for one year, and until others are chosen and qualified in their stead. The President and Vice-President shall be chosen by the Board of Trustees from their number at their first meeting after their election, or at an adjournment thereof. The officers of the Society shall also include a President Emeritus when the Society shall so vote.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the third Sunday of January unless postponed by vote of the Trustees.

Special meetings may be called by order of the Board of Trustees. The Clerk shall notify each member by a written or printed notice sent through the mail postpaid at least three days before the time of meeting, or by publishing such notice in one or more newspapers published in Brookline.

At all meetings of the Society ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be called by the Clerk at the request of the President, by giving each member personal or written notice, or by sending such notice by mail, postpaid at least twenty-four hours before the time of such meeting; but meetings arranged when all the Trustees are present may be held without such notice. The President shall call meetings of the Board of Trustees at the request of any three members thereof. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII

VACANCIES

Vacancies in the offices of Trustees, Clerk, or Treasurer may be filled for the remainder of the term at any regular meeting of the Society by the vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting. In the absence of the Clerk at a meeting of the Society, a Clerk *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

ARTICLE VIII

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee of three members shall be appointed by the presiding officer, who shall report at the annual meeting a list of candidates for the places to be filled.

ARTICLE IX

PRESIDING OFFICER

The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Society. In the absence of those officers a President *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

ARTICLE X

DUTIES OF THE CLERK

The Clerk shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of his duties.

He shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society and shall keep record of all proceedings of the Society at its meetings.

He shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society and place on file letters received.

He shall enter the names of members in order in books or cards kept for that purpose, and issue certificates to Life members and to Benefactors.

He shall have charge of such property in possession of the Society as may from time to time be delegated to him by the Board of Trustees.

He shall acknowledge all loans or gifts made to the Society.

ARTICLE XI

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due the Society, and pay all bills against the Society when approved by the Board

of Trustees. He shall keep a full account of receipts and expenditures in a book belonging to the Society, which shall always be open to the inspection of the Trustees; and at the annual meeting he shall make a written report of all his doings for the year preceding. The Treasurer shall give bonds in such sum, with surety, as the Trustees may fix, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

ARTICLE XII

DUTIES AND POWERS OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall superintend the prudential and executive business of the Society, authorize all expenditures of money, fix all salaries, provide a common seal, receive and act upon all resignations and forfeitures of membership, and see that the by-laws are duly complied with. The Board of Trustees shall have full powers to hire, lease, or arrange for a suitable home for the Society, and to make all necessary rules and regulations required in the premises.

They may from time to time appoint such sub-committees from their own number as they deem expedient.

In case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk or Treasurer they shall have power to choose the same *pro tempore* till the next meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE XIII

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President shall annually appoint four standing committees, as follows:—

Committee on Rooms

A committee of three members, to be styled the "Committee on Rooms" to which shall be added the President and Clerk of the Society *ex-officio*, who shall have charge of all arrangements of the rooms (except books, manuscripts, and other objects appropriate to the library offered as gifts or loans), the hanging of pictures, and the general arrangements of the Society's collection in their department.

Committee on Papers

A committee of three members, to be styled the "Committee on Papers," who shall have charge of the subjects of papers to be read, or other exercises of a profitable nature, at the monthly meetings of the Society.

Committee on Membership

A committee of three or more members, to be styled the "Committee on Membership," whose duty it shall be to give information in regard to the purposes of the Society, and increase its membership.

Committee on Library

A committee of three or more members, to be styled the "Committee on Library," who shall have charge of the arrangement of the Library, including acceptance and rejection of books, manuscripts, and other objects tendered to the library, and the general arrangement of the Society's collections in that department.

These four committees shall perform their duties as above set forth under the general direction and supervision of the Board of Trustees.

Vacancies that occur in any of these committees during their term of service shall be filled by the President.

ARTICLE XIV

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The President shall annually, appoint two members, who, with the President, shall constitute the Committee on Finance, to examine from time to time the books and accounts of the Treasurer, to audit his accounts at the close of the year, and to report upon the expediency of proposed expenditures of money.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, notice of the subject-matter of the proposed alterations or amendments having been given at a previous meeting.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

MARCH — 1953

- Miss Julia D. Addison
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